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RICARDO BALBIN, OTHER UCR LEADERS ARRESTED

PY020410Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0330 GMT 2 May 78 PY

[Excerpts] Villa Mercedes, San Luis Province, 1 May--Late this afternoon Ricardo Balbin, his son and at least six local Radical Civic Union [UCR] leaders were arrested, presumably for violating the law forbidding political party activities. Along with Balbin the following persons were taken to the police station: Balbin's son; Carlos Contin; Hector Bartolome Becerra, former provincial governor candidate; Eduardo Cimolin; Carlos Edgardo Zavala and Jose Mellano.

It was reported, but without confirmation, that other UCR leaders were also arrested.

MRS PERON SECRETLY HOSPITALIZED IN BUENOS AIRES

PY020104Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1930 GMT 1 May 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 1 May--Last weekend former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron was secretly brought to this capital to undergo medical examination by computerized axial tomography at the French hospital, according to information supplied by responsible sources.

Tomography is a very modern diagnostic method requiring advanced technical equipment which is available only in two medical institutions in the country, one of them the French hospital.

Secrecy surrounding the transfer of the former president to Buenos Aires precluded more information on the reasons for the trip, which obviously was due to the need for her undergoing the medical examination.

This fact seems to confirm rumors heard in recent days about the worsening health of Peron's widow.

JUSTICE MINISTER RETURNS FROM MEETING IN VENEZUELA

PY011440Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1705 GMT 29 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Apr--Justice Minister Air Force Brig Gen Julio Arnaldo Gomez returned to the country from Venezuela where he attended the fourth meeting of justice ministers of the Spanish-American-Portuguese-Philippines community which intends to unify certain judicial and legal procedures.

Gomez remarked that an agreement was approved during the conference unifying everything pertaining to birth, death and marriage certificates; drugs and drug traffic; commercial corporations and investments; and the penal sentencing system.

A commission of delegates was also created to organize the next conference which will take place within the next 2 or 3 years at a place yet to be determined. A commission and the general secretariat, which has its headquarters in Spain, were charged with drafting the agenda for the next conference.

Gomez also indicated that he had had many interesting contacts with the 22 justice ministers who attended the conference.

Gomez was welcomed back by presidentials Aide-De-Camp Gen Isidro Caceres.

SILES ZUAZO DENOUNCES BANZER GOVERNMENT AT RALLY

PY011412Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0418 GMT 29 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 28 Apr--Former President Hernan Siles Zuazo, presidential candidate for the Bolivian left, today criticized the "Charana embrace" between Presidents Hugo Banzer and Augusto Pinochet.

During his first campaign speech Siles said: "The people were cheated at Charana and once again it has been demonstrated just what type of policy is being implemented by President Banzer's government, which is trying to offer solutions which in reality are only mirages."

More than 6,000 persons attended the political rally and more than 2,000 others joined the rally when it began to move through the streets of La Paz during the night chanting against the "military boot" and "government fascism."

The police did not take action and there were no incidents during the rally, the first fully antigovernment rally held in this city since the electoral campaign began.

Siles criticized Banzer's regime for its "irresponsibility in contracting an external debt which had enslaved all Bolivians."

The government has confirmed that the country's current external debt amounts to $2.5 billion, a record for the country.

At the same time, 5,000 people met in the enclosed Coliseum of La Paz in order to proclaim Gen Juan Pereda as official candidate. Pereda lauded the great work done by Banzer and denounced the "empty" demagogy of the "demagogic speeches of some of the leaders who have already passed into the country's history."

GASTON MOREIRA'S FSB FACTION ELECTS OFFICERS

PY020253Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 28 Apr 78 p 13 PY

[Excerpt] The fifth national extraordinary meeting of the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB], under the presidency of its new national leader, Gaston Moreira, yesterday morning held its last session for the presentation of the party's government platform and then proceeded to elect the other members of its directorate. To serve in the directorate under the presidency of Gaston Moreira, the following persons were elected: Jaime Tapia Alipaz as first vice president; Hernando Garcia Vespa as second vice president; Augusto Mendizabal Moya as secretary general. They assumed their new posts immediately and the new first vice president spoke, in an emotion-laden voice, saying that after 37 years of dedication to the party's cause he was today receiving a show of confidence by being named to the second-highest position in the party directorate and that he adknowledged this demonstration on behalf of Garcia Vespa, Mendizabal and himself.

PDC PROTESTS GOVERNMENT ABUSES IN INTERIOR

PY281510Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 25 Apr 78 p 10 PY

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has charged that Gen Rene Bernal's campaign is facing several difficulties in the interior and it has therefore requested the participation of the National Electoral Court and the Human Rights Commission.

The party charges that its proclamations in Oruro and Cochabamba have been interrupted by "evidently official actions," such as electric power cuts to stop radio broadcasts. Furthermore, it adds that there were other direct actions against some of its members.

The PDC charges that the most serious offense took place last week in Cliza, Cocharamba, where local PDC leader Julio Almendras was detained by the deputy police chief, who is merely identified as Mayor Tapia.

According to the PDC, Julio Almendras was beaten. The police broke into his house and his wife, who was pregnant, gave birth prematurely.

The PDC demands direct intervention to guarantee "democratic freedom and to force military and government authorities to respect the rights of political parties."

Other political groups have made similar charges, demanding "greater guarantees for the electoral process."

ORURO MINERS ENDORSE CANDIDACY OF PDC'S BERNAL

PY282050Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 25 Apr 78 p 11 PY

[Excerpts] Oruro, 25 Apr--In a ceremony held last weekend at the mining district of Colquiri, during which he was proclaimed presidential candidate, Gen Rene Bernal Escalante stated: "We will not respect those electoral results which try to deceive or alter the will of the people."

The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] candidate received a cordial welcome from miners and civilians of this important mining district located 50 km from Oruro. General Bernal was accompanied by national and local PDC leaders.

Miner Alejandro Chabmi proclaimed General Bernal a presidential candidate "of the people, for a democratic and liberating government."

In his speech, General Bernal said he had ties with Colquiri because his father had worked there. He charged the "imperialists" with threatening to sell tin reserves, "to the detriment of miners' salaries, which cannot be called a salary anymore." He said he will strive to establish a good and just salary for workers and miners if he is elected.

Regarding unionism, he said that workers should use this right as a tool to pressure enterprises and the government: "Unions must be led by genuine workers and not by professionals in the government party or by persons who serve partisan and sectorial interests."

He criticized U.S. policy regarding the sale of tin reserves. He added that the only possible position that a dependent and dominated country could take was an anti-imperialist one.

He reiterated his position and added that "there is a need for changing the nation's social, economic and political structure, which should be accompanied by a moral revolution to eradicate corruption, irresponsibility and the denial of human rights. This revolution must be carried out within the framework of a genuine representative democracy in which the participation of the most neglected sectors will make this a dynamic process."

The ceremony concluded with a reception given by the miners in honor of the candidate, his family and his guests.

GOVERNMENT MAY RECONSIDER ROLE IN ITC

PY2818Z8Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Bolivia will reexamine its position in the International Tin Council [ITC] unless the way it now operates is revised. This statement was made in a press conference by Mining and Metallurgy Minister Ernesto Camacho Hurtado.

In order to make this decision, which would occur at the next ITC meeting, the ministry has entrusted Bolivian marketing experts with studying the policy which should be followed by this country in the future.

General Camacho Hurtado said that the tin agreement in force has lost its equality, and its methods have been changed through the entry of a strong and highly industrialized country and has become converted into an agreement which can be freely interpreted and easily adapted to the interests of the most powerful. The mining minister said that this fact is harmful to the producer countries, which find their right to obtain just and fair prices for their raw materials suppressed.

He said that the most contradictory position is to be found among the tin-producing countries, which (?should) assume a position of unyielding unity. Nevertheless, they have left Bolivia without any support.

He again repeated that the Bolivian delegation which attended the last ITC meeting clearly stated that the Bolivian Government does not accept and will not accept the tin sales of the General Services Administration [GSA]. He said that a work group was formed to discuss matters related to the sale of U.S. tin reserves, in which Bolivia has refused to participate. Bolivian participation in that group would represent implicit (?agreement) with the sale of the GSA reserves.

He announced that the ITC economic panel for price revision will meet from 12 to 16 July in Bangkok, Thailand.

The mining minister also stated during his press conference that he has signed an economic agreement with the Belgian Government for a sum of 75 million Belgian francs, about $2.4 million, for the building of the polymetallic smelting and refinery plant at (Carachipampa). A second contract was signed with the financial institution [name indistinct] for 1.5 billion Belgian francs, $47 million, for the same plant.

He said that negotiations are now in progress for (?a loan of) DM25 million, $15 million, from the German South American Bank.

COB HEADS MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION IN LA PAZ

PY0200llY Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2145 GMT 1 May 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 1 May--For the first time in 7 years the Bolivian Labor Central [COB], top union organization in the country, headed the 1 May demonstration in La Paz. Labor Day was celebrated this year due to the reestablishment of union activity, which had been proscribed for the last 3 years along with political parties. Today's labor rally was headed by Juan Lechin Oquendo, COB's executive secretary, and by other leaders who returned to Bolivia during the last 3 months, thanks to the general amnesty issued because of the upcoming July elections.

WESTINGHOUSE AFFIRMS SAFETY OF ANGRA I PLANT

PY0200333Y Rio de [illegible] O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Apr 78 p 30 PY

[Excerpts] The Westinghouse Company has assured Furnas Electric Company that Angra I nuclear plant will operate with complete safety. In a letter sent to both the president of Furnas and to Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki, the U.S. company referred recent press reports regarding the unsafe conditions of the plant which was being bu without compliance with the minimum rules of safety.

In that regard, the Westinghouse Company letter said that the special interest of th in the construction of the Angra I plant was quite understandable, "since it is the fi large nuclear project in Brazil." The company said that, since it has more than 20 years of experience in commercial nuclear projects, "it is absolutely certain that its planning engineering and construction work will insure the nuclear plant operation of complete safety."

The company also affirmed in the letter that Angra I has been designed in compliance with legal codes and standards in force at the time the contract was signed, adding that such procedure is normal practice and had been approved by the National Nuclear Energy Commission [CNEN].

The letter then said: "Still those standards had been modified and new ones adopted as construction of the plant was in progress." According to the company, as new techniques develop the aspects of the project are reviewed one by one as the projec moves along.

The Westinghouse Company said further that every time it learns of new developments, Furnas is informed of them and many modifications have been introduced in the plans and construction of the plan: "This way, the Angra I project has been continuously brought up to date in recent years."

The Westinghouse letter added that Angra I can be compared to U.S. plants which have gone into opration lately or which are in the process of being licensed. The letter also said that Brazilian authorities impose rigid safety and quality requirements "which have been complied with in Angra I."

The letter stated that since the onset of the project, both Westinghouse and the engineering company have had their quality control standards inspected by Furnas, Ebasco (consulting company to Furnas), by CNEN and even by the Westinghouse parent firm in the United States on 39 different occasions.

As for the tilting of the turbogenerator building, the U.S. company asserted that the structure suffered no cracks: "The tilting of foundations in industrial buildings is rather common, but their planning takes into consideration such an eventuality. In this case the occurrence of a slight tilt was noticed and corrective measures had been promptly taken."

SOVIET EMBASSY ISSUES DENIAL ON PLANS TO SUPPLY URANIUM

PY0200934Y Rio de Janiero JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 May 78 p 2 PY

[Excerpts] The Soviet Embassy in Brasilia has denied the existence of any type of negotiations between the Brazilian Government and Soviet enterprises for the supply of enriched [illegible] for Angra II and III nuclear plants to be built [illegible] agreements [illegible].

The denial by the Soviet Embassy is being made because of rumors which circulated in Brasilia this past March regarding possibilities that NUCLEBRAS might obtain from Moscow the amounts of enriched uranium which URENCO is bound by contract to supply to Brazil, but which the Netherlands, as a member of that consortium jointly owned with the FRG and Great Britain, wants to embargo.

The Soviet Embassy in Brasilia was surprised at both declarations attributed to the Soviet ambassador in Bonn, in which he had praised the complementary nuclear agreements signed between Brazil and the FRG during President Geisel's visit to the FRG in March, and at rumors of negotiations between NUCLEBRAS and Soviet exporting enterprises for the supply of enriched uranium.

At that time the Soviet Embassy in Brasilia avoided any comment on these questions and asked for information from Moscow, whose answer has only now been made public by the advisers to Ambassador Dmitriy Zhukov:

1. No negotiations are underway or being planned between the Brazilian Government and any Soviet enterprise for the supply of enriched uranium for the Brazilian nuclear program;

2. The Soviet ambassador to Bonn made no declaration supporting the complementary nuclear agreements concluded between Brazil and the FRG in March 1978.

PHYSICIST CALLS FOR PROTOTYPE THORIUM REACTOR

PY291757Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Apr 78 p 25 PY

[Text] Belo Horizonte--The construction of a nuclear reactor prototype which would attempt to reproduce the mechanical and technical characteristics of uranium pressurized water reactors while operating on a thorium cycle was defended yesterday by physicist Jair Carlos Mello, considered the organizer of the famous "thorium group." According to him, such a project "of essential interest to the country's technological advancement" would have to be undertaken exclusively by Brazilian specialists.

The physicist said "the government cannot forget that this is much more important than importing plants, material specificiations, or other details which do not encourage technological advancement. The government should also make sure that the country develops its own concepts in basic nuclear engineering, which would require a different kind of program and not just the construction of nuclear plants designed to generate commercial electrical energy."

Jair Carlos Mello believes that light water reactors requiring enriched uranium have a limited duration of 40 years, at best. "Therefore, we should ask whether it would be beneficial for us to dedicate our efforts only to this type of technology, and risk being forced to opt for a new alternative in the years ahead because of a new world situation. This would once again force us to depend on agreements such as the one we now have with the FRG, which would be subject to pressure similar to the ones we are now enduring," he concluded.

According to Mello, "despite the respect we have for foreign specialists," the basic questions concerning development of a nuclear reactor prototype which would operate on a thorium cycle "can only be adequately answered by Brazilian technicians, who are most familiar with their country's characteristics. How economical is thorium? How much can be used in a reactor? How much uranium can we substitute? How much thorium will we need?

"All these essential questions can be answered without German cooperation because the models which will be used are contained in technical and scientific literature at anyone's disposal."

Ueki Endorses Thorium Reactor

PY291933Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Apr 78 p 22 PY

[Text] Brasilia--During his first interview after returning from his trip to Venezuela and France, Mining and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki yesterday stated: "I entirely agree with physicist Jair Carlos Mello regarding the construction of a pressurized water type nuclear reactor using thorium as fuel."

According to the minister, the physicist's idea is so pertinent that the agreement signed with the FRG during President Geisel's visit there already foresees the development of research for a thorium reactor. The physicist's proposal is that Brazil develop its own technology using thorium because, according to Brazilian scientists, "the reactors used in nuclear plants requiring enriched uranium have a limited duration of 40 years at best."

NUCLEBRAS OWES FRG $104 MILLION TO DATE

PY290155Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Apr 78 PY

[Text] The Brazilian Nuclear Corporations [NUCLEBRAS] today released a note regarding payments made to the FRG for the transfer of technology pursuant to the Brazilian nuclear program, making it clear that the contracts signed with FRG firms from 1975--the year when the Brazilian-FRG nuclear agreement was signed--to 1977 totaled $104 million.

NUCLEBRAS states that this amount will be paid gradually over 15 years, with an annual average of $7 million, and adds that the contracts signed represent a major part of the investments to be made in the area of transferring technology.

The note adds that the contracts to be signed in the future will cover the transfer of technology to Brazilian private industry facilitating its participation in the Brazilian nuclear program. The amounts of these contracts will be much less than those signed earlier by NUCLEBRAS regarding the transfer of technology.

OIL EXPLORATION CONTRACT WITH VENEZUELA ENVISAGED

PY291715Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Apr 78 p 22 PY

[Text] Brasilia--During an interview with the press yesterday, Mining and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki announced that Brazil may sign oil exploration contracts with Venezuela to exploit the Rio Orinoco reserves.

Heavy oil reserves in the Orinoco region could reach up to 1 trillion barrels, with a minimum reserve of 700 billion, although the recoverable portion is about 10 percent. The minister said the suggestion for PETROBRAS to collaborate with PETROVEN--the Venezuelan state oil company--was made by the mining minister of Venezuela, Valentin Hernandez Acosta.

However, Shigeaki Ueki stated that the proposal will be studied in October when Hernandez comes to Brazil.

Ueki believes that Venezuela's invitation to search for oil in Rio Orinoco is important, but added that any work in that area will be very difficult because of the quality of the oil, which is very heavy with a content of 6 to 10 API. [presumably "degrees API," measure of density used by the American Petroleum Institute]

Ueki stated that preliminary work is necessary before the oil can be exploited, and new research techniques for this are essential.

The minister did not know what contract method would be used in the agreement between PETROBRAS and PETROVEN. He only said that the final details will be discussed during Valentin Hernandez' visit to Brazil in October.

Among the agreements reached with Venezuela, the minister emphasized the invitation made to Brazil to search for uranium near the boundary between the two countries. The details of the final agreement will also be discussed during the October visit.

IMPASSE WITH CANADA REPORTED OVER BILATERAL TRADE PROBLEMS

PY281445Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 27 Apr 78 p 27 PY

[Text] Brasilia--At the end of the second day of negotiations at Itamaraty, Brazilian and Canadian delegates at the second meeting of the Brazilian-Canadian joint commission reached an impasse regarding bilateral trade problems, specificially referring to protectionist barriers created against the entrance of national shoes into the Canadian market.

The Canadians clearly explained at the secret meetings held yesterday that they have problems in granting any concessions regarding Brazilian shoes since this is an election year and unemployment problems and protection of the national industry have a multiplying effect in terms of votes for the Liberal Party, which is in power.

The absence of an agreement between the two delegations--the Canadian delegation is headed by Under Secretary of State Donald MacPhail and the Brazilian by Ambassador Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima--will be reflected on the final communique of the second meeting of the joint commission to be issued today. Each party will be limited to expressing its views on the bilateral trade problems regarding the entrance of shoes and leather goods [into Canada]. The meeting will end this afternoon and the Canadian delegation will immediately leave for Rio de Janeiro to return to its country.

LIBYANS TO ARRIVE 14 MAY TO DISCUSS TRADE

PY281818Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1618 GMT 28 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 28 Apr--A Libyan delegation will arrive here on 14 May to discuss with Brazilian officials now to increase financial and commercial cooperation between the two countries.

According to Bashir K. Fadil, Libyan ambassador to Brazil, last year's sales of oil totaled 10 million barrels, which cost $134 million. The ambassador added that Libya is ready to increase its sales of oil to Brazil.

TRADE BALANCE POSITIVE; DROUGHT WILL CAUSE EXPORT LOSS

PY281305Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Brazil's trade balance showed a surplus for the first time this year with $1,057,852,000 in exports in March. In January Brazil exported $803,500,000 and in February almost $820 million. Comparing the first quarters of 1977 and 1978, an increase in exports is noted.

According to the finance minister, drought will cause an export loss of almost $1 billion this year compared with last year. Soybean derivatives, oil and meal alone will have an export revenue loss of from $700 to $900 million compared with last year.

MDB LAWMAKERS ATTACK GUBERNATORIAL SELECTION PROCESS

PY270157Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Text] Senator Orests Quercia [Brazilian Democratic Movement, MDB--Sao Paulo State] today objected to the procedure followed for the appointment of the future governor of Sao Paulo State, noting that the method used entails an usurpation of the people's sovereignty, an attack on the MDB and a disrespect for ARENA's [National Renewal Alliance] local leaders.

Making clear that this criticism is not motivated by personal antagonism against any of the candidates appointed by Planalto Palace, Quercia stated that the people of Sao Paulo are entitled to freely elect their own governor. He said that governors elected by the people have always been better than those appointed by the central government.

Quercia noted that the MDB could have won the governorship of Sao Paulo State had the guidelines for indirect elections not been changed by the April package adopted last year. MDB senators Gilvan Rocha and Franco Motoro endorsed Quercia's assertions.

Commenting on the procedure followed to appoint state governors, Deputy Tancredo Neves [MDB--Minas Gerais State], MDB leader in the Chamber of Deputies, said that there is no precedent in Brazilian history for a case like this in which a revolution that had been made for the benefit of Brazil has been discredited to the point of becoming a movement at the service of a group of friends, associates, proteges and relatives.

Neves said that candidates were appointed on the basis of personal preference and paternalism. He said that the procedure for appointing state governors is a violation of the people's right to elect their representatives, adding that there can be no relevant justification related to public order for this procedure.

Neves charged that through this procedure, the government benefits only [word indistinct] and proteges and rewards obsequiousness and subservience while it neglects the main party, that is, the people.

Neves stated that the method for appointing governors reflects the revolution's inability to develop new methods and processes, having thus publicly and solemnly admitted its failure. He added that in view of this institutional crisis, the Brazilian revolution is moving toward a showdown, not because the government wants it, but rather because the nation demands it.

ARENA leader Jose Bonifacio said that tomorrow he will reply to Neves' assertions.

ARENA's Bonifacio Replies

PY280347Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 28 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Deputy Jose Bonifacio, government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, today termed the MDB [Brazilian Deomcratic Movement] position hypocritical and incoherent in response to the harsh criticism made yesterday against the gubernatorial succession by MDB leader Tancredo Neves.

Bonifacio said: Those who made a shady deal in Rio de Janeiro State are now trying to make other states look immoral. He added that the MDB follows this motto: Do what I say but not what I do. Neves claimed that the election of governors was degrading, immoral and intolerable considering sound political reasoning, the law and customs.

Bonifacio concluded by saying that there was neither crime, immorality nor degradation in the appointment of governors from Acre to Rio Grande do Sul State--except Rio de Janeiro State. He said: If the opposition leader calls this "circumstances," I will call it "hypocrisy."

POLICE BREAK UP PORTO ALEGRE DEMONSTRATION

PY281540Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Apr 78 p 24 PY

[Excerpt] Porto Alegre--At least 30 students were arrested last night during a demonstration staged to support amnesty, a demonstration which had been branded illegal by Col Rubem Moura Jardim, Rio Grande do Sul State security secretary. At 1945, when most people were already sure that the demonstration announced by the amnesty committee would not be held, approximately 200 students appeared on the sidewalk of Borges de Medieros Avenue and mixed with hundreds of people who can be usually found in that area. The shouts "amnesty...amnesty" were enough for the police to unleash indiscriminate violence.

Military and civilian police, armed with long wooden truncheons, broke up the group of people waiting to enter the Vitoria movie theater, and proceeded to hit on the head anyone they happened to find, including those who were quietly waiting for buses at the bus stops on Salgado Filho Avenue.

When the students shifted from near the city hall to the intersection of Borges de Medeiros Avenue and Salgado Filho and Andrade Neves avenues, the policemen intensified their actions, ultimately arresting approximately 30 persons. At 2100 the public relations office of the 9th Military Police Batallion reported that none of the persons arrested had been taken to their headquarters, and Department of Political and Social Order (DOPS) Chief Marco Aurelio Reis cited an urgent meeting as the reason for his inability to meet with the press. At the same time Police Chief Keller reported that 12 persons, "all of whom had a record," had been taken to DOPS headquarters.

The uproar caused a tremendous traffic jam in the entire downtown area of Porto Alegre from 1730 to 2030, when dozens of policemen vacated the Borges de Medieros Avenue area, leaving behind only a few soldiers to prevent new gatherings.

The fact is that the demonstration supporting amnesty was almost canceled because out of the 33 groups which support the amnesty committee, among which is the Brazilian Democratic Movement, only the students central board [diretorio central dos estudantes] carried the plans out, in spite of the ostensive display of police forces in front of the city hall from early morning.

At the time of the arrests, several persons who had nothing to do with the demonstration became disgusted by the action of the police and began to jeer and call the policemen "cowards" and "bullies" [prevalecidos]. They were threatened with arrest by the officers who commanded the operation.

The Baixada Santista Amnesty Commission [Comissao da Baixada Santista Pela Anistia], created on 18 April, announced yesterday in Santos that its first effective task will be to make a detailed survey of all persons affected by exceptional laws in this area since 1964. Marco Aurelio da Costa Milani, one of the members of the commission's executive board, explained the reason for this: "Taking into account that the Baixada Santista is among the areas most affected by the exceptional laws, we must carry out a survey to be able to do something concrete in line with our main objectives."

These objectives are: broad and unrestricted amnesty for all Brazilian political prisoners and persons who are being persecuted for their political views; defense of human rights; legal and material aid to victims of exceptional laws; and reporting of facts, situations and documents useful for the implementation of the objectives of the movement.

Press Claims Interference

PY281546Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 28 Apr 78 PY

[Text] The leadership of the Porto Alegre Union of Professional Journalists tonight issued an official communique repudiating the aggression experienced by journalists who were carrying out their professional duties during the amnesty demonstration held in downtown Porto Alegre.

The journalists union is very concerned by the fact that police violence of the kind displayed yesterday has happened before. The union indicated that while press and television cameramen were being brutally prevented from doing their work and had their equipment torn from their hands, other [words indistinct] freely took pictures and filmed the events.

BISHOPS' STATEMENT FAVORING AMNESTY CENSORED

PY280350Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 28 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Sao Paulo--The appeal made by the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops in favor of amnesty was completely censored and its publication in the Catholic weekly O SAO PAULO has been banned. The newspaper will be distributed tomorrow in all churches of the Sao Paulo Archdiocese.

18 RIO POLITICAL PRISONERS BEGIN HUNGER STRIKE

PY251450Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0114 GMT 25 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 24 Apr--Eighteen political prisoners began a "solidarity" hunger strike today for 15 other persons condemned for political reasons who took a similar action on 18 April at Itamaraca prison in Pernambuco State.

The Itamaraca political prisoners began their hunger strike to protest the conditions of their detention in this prison, located in near Recife, capital of Pernambuco State in northeastern Brazil.

PINOCHET DELIVERS LABOR DAY ADDRESS

PY012113Y Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1610 GMT 1 May 78 PY

[Speech by President Augusto Pinochet during Labor Day ceremony held at Diego Portales Building on 1 May at 1610 GMT in Santiago--live]

[Excerpt] As we have done every year since the military government came to power, today we are celebrating Labor Day together with the country's workers and we give our affectionate greeting to all workers throughout the country, a greeting which dignifies a date which has historically been linked with class struggles and social discord but which today involves the creation of a dynamic society free of internal tensions and at the same time creating an atmosphere of a more just and unified relationship between workers, businessmen and government.

Workers, men and women, of my fatherland, as a Chilean and as president, I, with just satisfaction, declare that this 1 May will undoubtedly be remembered in the country's institutional history as a new milestone on the road of the ethical and legal restoration which we have imposed on ourselves.

On this same date in 1976, 2 years ago, the training and employment statute was approved and signed, thus giving satisfaction to an aspiration, an unpostponeable need, of the working sector.

We have confirmed this at the present time with the first and encouraging results which are an undeniable reality, the current and future benefits of which will be impervious to demagoguery.

This is, once again, a demonstration that this government does not make deceptive promises to its family; on the contrary, it provides productive and everlasting achievements. When it gives its word, it fulfills it, thus honoring the man and the soldier.

In this solemn ceremony we are giving life to two legal instruments which are fundamental for the institutional life of the labor sector: the Labor Council, the highest organization for the integration of all groups which participate in the production process which clearly expresses the spirit of overcoming, through conciliation and through direct understanding, the old structures of confrontation which only favored party minorities.

It is also testimony to the government's will to encourage intensive participation by the people at various levels of national life through the channels and mechanisms which are pertinent in each case.

At the same time, another legal instrument is being approved and signed which is as important as the first. I refer to the new individual labor contract and workers protection law, a document in which substantial progress is made regarding the new legal labor structure, the norms of which are a necessary for dealing with modern deficiencies. Although it is true that this new law has taken everything that is positive from modern day legislation, it also eliminates all dehumanizing elements which affect highly economically developed societies which have forgotten the eternal human and Christian values which are deeply rooted in our nationality.

All this has been achieved thanks to the military government, supported by the great majority of the people, which is formed by men who are dedicated to service of the fatherland and its supreme interests.

Nevertheless, day by day the path has fewer obstacles to overcome, and although it will take a long time to travel this path it will be easier to travel considering the advances which have been achieved in the economic, social, political and institutional fields and which no one now disputes.

This has awakened the ambition for power in many politicians who were pushed to one side at one point but who believed that power would fall into their hands and who, since the 4 January referendum, have unleashed a rumor campaign in which they exude the bile of their resentment and in which they reveal their political chicanery, seeking objectives which have proven to be worthless, thus creating uncertainty among the people. As the president of Chile, and before the workers of my fatherland, I tell them that the government firmly and categorically rejects these rumors. Chile has a future and in order to achieve this future, I repeat, we will advance resourcefully day by day, but on a sound basis, toward creation of the new institutional system. [applause]

The dissolved political parties and the politicians who have not understood their role in today's fatherland will fall into limbo because the immense majority of Chileans are fed up with political infighting and they know that the political parties, in their desire to obtain power, do not hesitate to support any type of demagogic solutions. [applause]

I therefore repeat: The government will remain unshakable in the service of Chile and to the objectives which it has imposed on itself.

Politicians, when they were in power, could well have implemented the solutions they now propose, and they should not have allowed, they should not have opened the path to voracious ambition [words indistinct] demagoguery to the penetration of Soviet communism. [applause]

We have maintained and we are [word indistinct] of the fatherland, that it does not belong to either the political parties or the individual because today the international ideal [sentido internacional] must prevail, an ideal which the former government did not wish to acknowledge and which we, over the last few years, have been trying to rebuild because it unites us much more.

These words are not only a greeting to the worker and his family, they also express what the government expects from its workers today and in the future.

Messrs workers, this is a Chile of outstanding greatness, where government and people work in unison for the future of its sons, for the future of all workers, for the future of everyone without exception. Everyone must feel that he is participating in the reconstruction of this new Chile which we love so much. Long live Chile! [applause]

ILLEGAL UNION RALLY DISPERSED; LEADERS ARRESTED

PY011613Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1656 GMT 1 May 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 1 May--It was reported here that the police today broke up a demonstration of a Chilean labor group which had been prohibited by the military government.

According to radio broadcasts and reports from witnesses in this city, dozens of demonstrators were arrested.

The incident took place in a downtown park where groups of workers and students had gathered to celebrate International Labor Day, in addition to the demonstration organized by the government.

According to radio broadcasts from this city, dozens of demonstrators were arrested, including an unidentified photographer. According to the same reports, the uniformed police requested reinforcements around noon in order to stop a column of some 200 persons who were advancing toward the meeting site selected by dissident union leaders. According to the same report, many demonstrators looked for refuge in a nearby Catholic church from which they were ousted and arrested.

The government had warned last Friday that only the official Labor Day celebration would be held at government house and that "no other demonstration will be authorized." Dissident union leaders, however, announced the same day that they were going to hold a rally in a downtown park, saying: "We will gather in Pedro Aguirre Cerda Park to address workers."

The demonstrators from the dispersed rally went from Pedro Aguirre Cerda Park to the San Francisco church in downtown Santiago on Liberator Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue. Inside the church, Chilean union leaders were accompanied by union delegates from the Netherlands, the United States, Spain, France, Italy, Colombia and Costa Rica. In an impromptu speech, Eduardo Rios, president of the Chilean Maritime Confederation, emphasized the presence of foreign union leaders and explained the reason for suspension of the demonstration.

It was reported at headquarters of the National Association of Government Employees (ANEF) that union leaders Clotario Blest, Ernesto Vogel and Manuel Bustos and three members of the Netherlands labor delegation were among those arrested.

UNTC PROTESTS ODEPLAN PROPOSALS FOR CUTTING UNEMPLOYMENT

PY291330Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 29 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--The National Union of Chilean Workers [Union Nacional de Trabajadores de Chile--UNTC], which is headed by Bernardino Castillo and Hernol Flores, does not support the plan proposed to the government by the National Planning Office [ODEPLAN] to reduce unemployment.

A statement issued by the union, which groups some 30 labor organizations, acknowledges the government's efforts to solve this problem. It also states the UNTC's decision to support any initiative designed to solve this problem. However, it refuses to support ODEPLAN's proposal, which it says is based on a socially regressive policy which not only denies and damages the rights and interests of workers, but is contradictory to the junta's very declaration of principles.

The UNTC emphasizes that elimination of minimum wages would in no way help reduce unemployment, but would immediately result in serious conflicts among the workers themselves. The reason is that there would be different wage scales for the same job, inevitably leading to an increase in dismissals of those workers who are now earning more than the basic wage level.

UNTC leaders consider decreased severance pay, elimination of social security quotas, reduction of the power of group committees, and elimination of Law No 16,455, which provides for new contracts, to be economically and socially regressive policies.

POLITICAL EXILE SEES NO CHANGE IN MILITARY REGIME

PA290345Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2114 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 28 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Renan Fuentealba Moena, former president of the Chilean Christian Democratic Party, said in San Jose today that the signs of positive change noticeable in the Chilean military regime should not mislead anybody.

The decreed amnesty, the end to the state of siege and the announcment of the upcoming conclusion of the plan for a new constitution are misleading if taken to mean a favorable change in the personal dictatorship of General Pinochet, Fuentealba noted.

He said that the reason he made these statements is that the characteristics of a backward, repressive and antidemocratic regime persist. He said that there is little difference between the state of siege and the state of emergency, that amnesty is limited because it favors only those who were sentenced by military courts, that an economic and social policy backed by force continues, and that violation of human rights and usurpation of the rights of the people have not stopped.

Fuentealba lives in Costa Rica as a political exile. He is the most prominent opponent of the military junta residing in this country.

This Christian Democrat leader also said today that the conduct of the Chilean Government "in the past 4 and 1/2 years of anguish and pain casts doubts on the existence of a genuine intention to achieve social peace."

NEW PRC AMBASSADOR STRESSES CLOSE TIES

PY271345Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0054 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 26 Apr--Hu Cheng-fang, the new PRC ambassador to Chile, stated here today that the PRC and Chile belong to the Third World and that they therefore share similar historical experiences and have similar aspirations. The diplomat made this statement after he presented his credentials to President Pinochet during a ceremony held at government house. Hu replaces Hsu Chung-fu, who recently ended his mission in Santiago.

Ambassador Hu delivered to President Pinochet the personal greetings of his president, Fe Chien-ying, and of Prime Minister Hua Kuo-feng. The PRC ambassador added: "The Chilean people are constantly struggling to safeguard their independence and their country's sovereignty against the oppressive intervention of imperialism and the hegemony of superpowers. They are struggling to develop their national economy and reconstruct their country."

The diplomat added that their countries' "traditional friendship has been strengthened, on the basis of principles of peaceful coexistence," since they established diplomatic relations in 1970.

For his part, President Pinochet noted the strong ties uniting Chile and the PRC and emphasized the reciprocal respect between the two countries.

LEFTIST EFFORT TO AGREE ON SINGLE CANDIDATE FAILS

PA011540Y Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 22 Apr 78 p 5A PA

[Excerpts] The National Opposition Union-National Popular Alliance-Independent Leftist Movement (UNO-ANAPO-MIL) coalition has rejected the 500,000-signature "plebiscite" which leaders of some other extreme leftist factions are promoting to force the resignation of three candidates: Julio Cesar Pernia, Jaime Piedrahita and Socorro Ramirez. This represents another failure, 44 days before the elections, in efforts to reach agreement on a single opposition candidate.

While Socorro Ramirez has rejected an appeal by a sector of the Socialist Revolutionary Union [URS] to withdraw in order to open the way for the selection of a single opposition candidate, the UNO-ANAPO-MIL coalition, for its part, issued a communique, the main portion of which states:

"In response to the proposal that half a million signatures be collected in order to pressure leftist candidates--particularly Julio Cesar Pernia--to withdraw, the national leadership of the UNO-ANAPO-MIL-URS [as received] coalition reaffirms the principles by which its policy of unity is guided.

"We have been and continue to be resolute advocates of a single leftist candidate, and we have been and continue to be disposed toward dialog. However, 45 days before the 4 June elections we cannot lose precious time without defining the bases of our position. For this reason we urge those who are making this proposal to indicate the names of the persons they would propose for this candidacy and the principles that would guide the front which they allegedly wish to establish.

"Those who, on the eve of the 4 June elections, are calling for a 'plebiscite' without outlining the program which they support and the person who would replace the majority candidate, are actually acting against the interests of the organized left, demobilizing [desmovilizan] the progressive electorate and inviting the masses to leap into an abyss. Their initiative could lead to a fourth candidate, and in any case, they are paving the way for abstentionism."

NEW TERRORIST GROUP ATTACKS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS

PA272259Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Bucaramanga--A new clandestine movement known as the Abstentionist Brigades [Brigadas Abstencionistas] appeared today in the wake of a terrorist attack which destroyed the campaign office of presidential candidate Ret Gen Alvaro Valencia Tovar early this morning. Through leaflets, the Abstentionist Brigades announced that they would conduct violent actions against the National Renewal Movement led by General Valencia Tovar, station announcer Hector Gomez reported.

General Valencia Tovar himself condemned the attack. I cannot understand what caused the dynamiting of my campaign offices, the general said. He added that his movement has not attacked or offended anybody. The intelligence services have begun an intensive investigation but so far have not apprehended the guilty parties.

Ret Gen Alvaro Valencia Tovar asked the government today to protect his campaign offices throughout the country. His request came a few hours after unidentified individuals set off a powerful bomb at the offices of the National Renewal Movement in Bacaramanga. Valencia Tovar said the authorities are dutybound to protect the campaign offices.

LIBERAL PARTY DISQUALIFIED BY TRIBUNAL

PA282309Y Quito La Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0030 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Francisco Huerta Montalvo and Blasco Pena Herrera, presidential and vice presidential candidates of Ecuador's Radical Liberal Party, which was disqualified today by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, have complained of a conspiracy to put an end to the state's plan for a return to a legal system. In statements to the press, Huerta Montalvo said:

[Begin Huerta Montalvo recording] The process of legal reorganization is in crisis when based on infamy and absolute subordination of those who compose a high tribunal which in [words indistinct] proceeds to the disqualification of a candidate which one sector has dared to say is without support. But such is not the case since in reality it represents the spirit of the Ecuadorean man to such an extent that today these maneuvers are being used against it.

I do not want to go into legal details. It suffices to say that a very short time ago we presented a request to have registration withdrawn. This was at a time when it was not even valid to do so for reasons known to all, for the party had not yet been legally recognized. Nevertheless, in a legal decision, which can only be questioned as it has no basis in law, the tribunal today disqualified this candidacy which it said had no support.

The response we obtained in the provinces we visited has been such that these kinds of maneuvers have been resorted to. Without threats or violence to resolve this political conflict, we [words indistinct] to determine before the Ecuadorean people, with the seriousness of our actions, the seriousness with which we look upon all the actions of our life, the seriousness which demands that we reassume--at our own request--the post of executive secretary of FEDESARROLLO [private company which Huerta Montalvo represented] to answer those charges which are the cause of our present difficulties. [sentence as heard] I say that Pancho Huerta will never adopt the attitude of Bucaram who under similar circumstances did nothing. We are not motivated only by electoral desires. We have a responsibility to the people we called for the great collective endeavour to construct a new republic and who have hastened to respond. We cannot say now that the great endeavor will not be carried out and the new republic will not be constructed.

On the contrary, if we make these kinds of statements, calmly but nobly, it is because we are confident. The armed institution, that armed institution which Eloy Alfaro--the father of Ecuadorean radicalism--helped to build, has no reason to be involved in a maneuver to set up native mini-Bordaberrys, to be responsible for those who have drug traffic connections or those connected with the Previsora case, or those who through omission or commission, are to blame for the corruption we have denounced. [end recording]

Officials Resign in Protest

PA292353Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 29 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Federico Veintimilla Salcedo, a member of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, early this morning submitted his resignation to protest decisions taken by the tribunal. Veintimilla gave as a reason for resignation his disapproval of the disqualification of Liberal Party candidate Francisco Huerta Montalvo and other decisions.

It was also learned from political circles that two other members of the tribunal, Severo Espinosa and Luis Pachano Carrion, would resign for the same reasons that Veintimilla did. These resignations have caused uncertainty regarding the country's political situation.

Veintimilla said that the tribunal's recent measures have made the people lose faith and become apprehensive and distrustful of the process. Later in the afternoon, Atahualpa Martinez, another tribunal member, also submitted his resignation, expressing his complete disapproval with recent decisions of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

Demonstrators Protest in Esmeraldas

PA290030Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1727 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Esmeraldas, Ecuador, 28 Apr (AFP)--Several persons were injured here today during a demonstration to protest the disqualification of Liberal presidential candidate Francisco Huerta Montalvo.

The demonstrators gathered outside the offices of the provincial governor and threw objects at the windows. The police repelled the attack and, according to press reports, shots were heard. Later, the demonstrators went to the offices of the civil registry and threw rocks at the windows. Other public buildings were also attacked and many burning tires were observed strewn along the streets.

LIBERALS, OTHER GROUPS MEET TO DISCUSS CREATION OF FRONT

PA292321Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] The rejection of Huerta Montalvo has underscored the problems confronted by his candidacy even within his own party. As a matter of fact Liberal dissidents questioned his unanimous nomination at a national assembly held in February in Rio Bamba and proposed that his uncle, Raul Clemente Huerta, be nominated instead.

The supreme board of the party considered the case a month ago but upheld the candidacy of Huerta Montalvo, who by that time was already conducting a full-scale registration campaign through several provinces. Now the political situation will allow the nomination of Raul Clemente Huerta, considered by several Liberal leaders and other center-left organizations as the country's savior. In an effort to promote this alternative a meeting was held by the directors of parties and groups such as the 1 September Command, Revolutionary Nationalism, the Republican Union, Socialism, the Republican Left and, naturally, Liberal dissidents. Former Liberal Party director Julio Moreno Espinoza reported on this meeting.

[begin Moreno Espinoza recording] A group of persons is still meeting here in my office. They are political movement leaders and independents who want to form a great national front, whose aim for the moment is not to promote any ticket to replace Francisco Huerta Montalvo but to create a great national democratic front, and we have agreed to make a sincere appeal to all parties and political groups involved in this electoral campaign to form a great national unity front which will return us to constitutional order built on a stable and permanent foundation.

We believe that the measures being taken by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal may create a climate of uncertainty and danger for this electoral process during the nation's juridical reorganization. This is our purpose. We have agreed to make a fervent appeal to all Ecuadoreans to join this great civilian movement which will stop any effort to subvert the electoral process.

[Question] Dr Moreno, besides Liberal Party members, what other political parties or movements are represented at the meeting to which you referred?

[Answer] The Revolutionary Nationalist Party, the Ecuadorean Socialist Party, the National Civic Junta, the National Poncista Movement, Republican Union, Progressive Social Front, Republican Left, 1 September Command, Ecuadorean Nationalist Action, and the Nationalist Leftwing Movement. [end recording]

CFP-POPULAR DEMOCRACY CANDIDATE OUTLINES PLATFORM

PA241840Y Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 17 Apr 78 p 17 PA

[Text] Jaime Roldos Aguilera, presidential candidate of the Concentration of Popular Forces (CFP)-Popular Democracy Alliance, has advocated "a great social change so that all Ecuadoreans can enjoy better living conditions" as part of his platform in the campaign for the 16 July elections.

As a means of attaining this end, the candidate of the CFP-conservative coalition has in mind--as he said publicly last Friday in Quito--democratic planning of the nation's economy on the basis of a profound administrative reform intended to achieve national integration through decentralization.

This political grouping favors the creation of a government which would honestly manage public funds "because," Roldos said, "one sees so much dishonesty in public administration that it is necessary to undertake the moral restoration of the nation."

At a lecture he gave on Friday, which is part of a series sponsored by CICE [not further identified], the CFP candidate asked Ecuadoreans to make a common effort to save the country. "We can no longer continue to go downhill," he said, "because a regime which had everything in its hands and had a great opportunity to effect change did not do so. The result has been extreme poverty for the majority and increased comfort for a lucky few, that is to say, profound inequality among the people."

He said the job at hand for the next administration is a hard one because the nation cannot be permitted to continue going downhill. We seek, he added, a takeoff in all production activities--in agriculture, business and industry--but a takeoff which will offer resources to neglected sectors so they can improve their situations. Let each man have what he needs; we seek everything that contributes to the framework of social and economic development.

He invited candidates to campaign without hatred or vengeance, seeking only social change--"the great change," as he emphasized--so that all Ecuadoreans can enjoy dignified living conditions in a just society which will do away with privileges forever.

According to the CFP-conservative progressive platform, national integration must be attained through administrative reform promoting decentralization. The idea is for the administration of the state to be at the service of the community, to meet national interests.

Roldos commented that resources from petroleum have allegedly been reinvested, but that there has only been a monstrous waste of the oil resources as a result of improvisation and tremendous failings in state administration. It is not, he said, 80,000 but... 130,000 million sucres that oil has produced in the past 5 years. And yet, the great neglected masses of Ecuador have received no benefits from that wealth.

On the other hand, he pointed out that the present national debt, which is unprecedented in the history of the republic, will make the people pay for the errors of an inefficient administration which has not served the nation's best interests.

"The oil wealth will have been only a mirage for Ecuadoreans," the candidate said, again emphasizing that once in the presidency he proposes "to change Ecuadoreans' future."

The program he briefly outlined also includes urgent fiscal reform to benefit needy economic sectors. According to the plan, by being collected and used honestly, taxes will serve to make the nation progress. Commenting on the tax question, the candidate said that the objective of taxes on services and business transactions (5 percent) has been distorted and the people paying these taxes are directly enriching both retention agents [agentes de retencion] and businessmen.

In the field of agrarian reform and colonization, the government plan is directed toward rural development and the solution of the great problems affecting peasants. The candidate said it was indispensable for the state to set up the necessary infrastructure to make the land produce, particularly in view of recent shortages.

The plan also calls for natural resources to be owned solely by the state and exploited with national welfare in mind so that the nation can overcome its underdevelopment.

In regard to other questions, the CFP-Popular Democracy platform calls for a foreign policy based on the equality of states, peaceful solution of conflicts, support for the integration of peoples, the strengthening of international organizations and an absolute end to colonialism. Roldos gave a detailed account of his government's plans in this area.

He also spoke of the coalition's plans for education, social security, worker and peasant protection and administrative reforms as the basis for what he called "the leap to economic development and social justice."

At the end of the lecture, the CFP candidate answered questions asked by persons attending the meeting, which was held at the Hotel Colon International.

LABOR DAY PARADE EVINCES SUPPORT FOR LEFTIST CANDIDATES

PA011952Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1900 GMT 1 May 78 PA

[Excerpts] Quito, 1 May (AFP)--The large workers parade on 1 May turned out to be a demonstration of support for leftist presidential candidates within the process of democratic recovery underway in Ecuador. The parade was jointly organized by the Confederation of Ecuadorean Workers, Ecuadorean Confederation of Catholic Workers, and the communist-leaning Ecuadorean Confederation of Free Union Organizations. The marchers carried posters and shouted slogans against the high cost of living, demanded a minimum wage raise equivalent to $120 and rejected the recent repressive measures taken by the military government to quell disturbances prompted by an increase in urban transportation fares. Those who participated in the parade included prominent officials of the Moscow-leaning Communist Leftwing Broad Front; Anibal Munoz, who is vice presidential candidate for the coalition; and Carlos Rodriguez, a candidate for mayor of Quito. Some of the workers, however, expressed their support for presidential candidate Camilo Mena of the Maoist-leaning Popular Democratic Movement.

ABC COLOR CLAIMS PROGRESS MADE AT PARANA TALKS

PY011822Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 29 Apr 78 p 1 PY

[Editorial: "The Tripartite Meeting"]

[Text] During the tripartite meeting which ended in our capital yesterday, Brazil submitted a proposal which, among other things, would allow the height of the Corpus Dam to be "approximately 100 meters." Brazil also offered Brasilia as the site of a future meeting at the foreign minister level.

Argentina categorically rejected the proposal regarding Corpus and even stated that this proposal would entail a step backward with regard to the Argentine proposal made during the previous meeting. Argentina also rejected a meeting of foreign ministers unless "there is prior agreement on basic matters aimed at reaching an overall agreement."

This is how the tripartite meeting came to an abrupt but not unexpected end.

This meeting cannot, however, be labeled as a failure. On the contary, it seems that some progress has been made in several respects, and it came to light at the same time that the problems facing the delegates of our country, Argentina and Brazil have not one but many complex aspects.

Some of the progress made concerns the filling of the Itaipu reservoir--whether it will be filled slowly or fast--and there are indications that it will be filled slowly, which, as has been said before, is the wise thing to do. It has allegedly also been agreed that the reservoir must not allow river water level to fall lower than 5 feet in the Encarnacion-Posadas area.

The fact that Argentina has proposed to start bilateral negotiations aimed at preparing the basis for an eventual treaty on Corpus can also be considered progress.

It is also worth noting that the recent meeting was concerned mainly with a discussion between Argentina and Brazil. Paraguay did not reject or accept anything. It only partially stated its points of view and arguments and kept other ideas for a more appropriate time. In this manner our country seems to have demonstrated at this meeting a clearer and more forceful role as participant and moderator than in previous tripartite meetings.

This is a position which legitimately belongs to Paraguay as an essential partner in the Parana hydroelectric projects and also as the exclusive owner of the potential energy resources in its interior rivers.

The progress made in the recent tripartite meeting, whether considered moderate--which is the most probable--or important, would not make any sense if the spirit to continue to search for a final agreement had disappeared. Fortunately, it seems that this is not the case and this is an encouraging factor.

BRIEFS

EXPORTS INCREASE--The increase in exports which the country has been experiencing recently has improved our trade balance. Toward the end of 1977 the balance of payments showed a surplus of $106.3 million, an increase of $50.9 million as compared to the previous year. Also, foreign trade has resulted in a positive balance of $23.3 million, as compared to $1.1 million in 1976. Exports have grown at a rate of 54 percent while imports have grown only 42 percent. [Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 14 Apr 78 p 19 PY]

FINANCE MINISTER SAYS OBLIGATIONS TO IMF BEING MET

PY271625Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text] The Peruvian minister of economy and finance stated yesterday that in spite of its domestic difficulties Peru is fulfilling its commitments with the IMF. General Saenz Barsallo indicated that the credit for this belongs to all Peruvians but added that foreign cooperation and understanding was also necessary.

Saenz Barsallo also said that there will be economic adjustments, but he did not say when they will be announced. He said that these adjustments will be discussed when the time comes and will take into account not only financial factors but also political and social factors within the framework of austerity established by current economic policy.

He added that before announcing any economic program his ministry will make an evaluation of the situation.

The minister left yesterday for Mexico, where he will participate in three international meetings: the Group of 24, the IMF committee, and the development committee of the World Bank.

GOVERNMENT DENIES CHARGES OF WASTEFUL SPENDING

PA281644Y Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The joint command of the armed forces and the Foreign Ministry issued separate official communiques yesterday which deny reports published in the weekly EL TIEMPO concerning Peru's diplomatic representation in Washington.

Quoting a foreign newspaper, the weekly accused the military of waste for having purchased housing for the use of the military attaches of the Peruvian Embassy.

The armed forces states that it is completely untrue that this housing had been purchased in cash. Instead, the housing was purchased through 30-year mortgages.

CREDIT BANK TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL FINANCES

PY261516Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] The representatives of the Peruvian Credit Bank in various cities of the world will meet tomorrow in Lima to review coordination of loans and other financial operations which this institution has with international banking organizations. The meeting will be presided over by (Carlos Ferreiro), chairman of the Peruvian Credit Bank Executive Board, and will be attended by representatives in New York, Madrid, Frankfurt, and other American and European cities.

BRIEFS

REVENUES FROM TOURISM--The president of the directorate of the National Chamber of Tourism reported yesterday that the country received approximately $140 million from tourism, more than the revenue received from the sale of cotton, wool, coffee, sugar and iron. [Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA]

ANTIGOVERNMENT GROUP IN MEXICO DENOUNCES DETENTIONS

PY262005Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1834 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Apr--A Committee for Solidarity with Uruguay charged here today that in Uruguay, a country of 2.7 million inhabitants, there is a political prisoner for every 385 people.

Julio Sanchez, leader of the group, said that Uruguay, "with 7,000 prisoners, is the Latin American country with the largest number of political prisoners in relation to its population."

He also reported that political prisoners are ill-treated and often disappear while in prison. Sanchez particularly stressed the case of Tuparmaro leader Raul Sendic.

He said that he was detained in 1972 and, after his whereabouts had been unknown for a long time, he appeared at a prison in the Uruguayan interior where he was being tortured, Sanchez asserted.

Sanchez is also concerned over the fate of the missing teacher Julio Castro, who was kidnaped almost a year ago, allegedly by security forces.

NATION'S ECONOMIC IMAGE RESTORED, SAYS OFFICIAL

PY291447Y Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Uruguay has recovered its international economic image of 20 years ago. This statement was made by Central Bank President Jose Gil Diaz when he returned from the United States, where he had contacts with World Bank officials. The official said that both the [word indistinct] and monetary policies have been very well received in international financial circles. Gil Diaz also confirmed that Uruguay is meeting its payments on the foreign debt, adding that the Central Bank does not need refinancing. On the contrary, the institution will initiate a policy of making investments abroad.

BRIEFS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLAN--It was officially announced today that Uruguay will improve its telecommunications system under a 5-year plan. The information was released by Gen (Juan Jose Milles), president of the National Telecommunications Administration, this morning. He said that installation of microwave systems will be considered. [Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY]

PURCHASE OF PATROL BOATS--The Uruguayan Navy will purchase three patrol boats to guard Uruguayan territorial waters. Radio Carve interviewed Navy Commander in Chief Hugo Marquez, who said: A resolution has been issued to purchase three patrol boats. Our boats are 30-50 years old; one is 67 years old. As you see, this is obsolete material. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 78 PY]

PESO DEVALUED--The Uruguayan peso was devalued once more today, which was reflected in the exchange rate of 5.73 and 5.74 pesos to the dollar at the closing of today's transactions. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 78 PY]

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES LABOR DISCIPLINE IN SAN CARLOS SPEECH

PA282311Y Caracas Rio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Text] There is labor peace in Venezuela but we still need much conscientiousness and labor discipline, President Carlos Andres Perez said during the celebration of the 300th anniversary of San Carlos, Cojedes State. The president added that in the north-central coastal region of the country, there is a certain negative political (?attitude) which is hindering the normal development of labor-management relations.

The government cannot allow business interruptions, the president said. We are living in a de jure regime. All have the liberty to use their rights, but also to carry out their duties, Carlos Andres Perez said in San Carlos.

Perez Comments on Price Increases

PA282326Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The government will authorize price increases only in those cases in which a company is not obtaining a legitimate profit, President Carlos Andres Perez announced in San Carlos. He added that the industrial policy is very clear and that there should be no rigidity when discussing prices.

According to the president, the country's production should not be discouraged by subjecting industry to prices that do not stimulate production. He then explained that such price increases must be based on studies, since there is no point in having industries close down because of losses. Nevertheless, the president noted, that is not the case in any of Venezuela's industries.

CONSALVI TO UNDERGO 'EMERGENCY' EYE OPERATION IN U.S.

PA282313Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Conslavi has left for the United States for an emergency eye operation. Consalvi was seen off at Simon Bolivar International Airport by President Carlos Andres Perez, Interior Minister Dr Octavio Lepage, Labor Minister Dr Jose Manzo Gonzalez, and Dr Jorge Gomez Mantelini, general director of foreign relations.

Due to this operation, Foreign Minister Consalvi will not be able to head the Venezuelan delegation to the inauguration of Costa Rican President-elect Rodrigo Carazo.

BRIEFS

PORT INVESTMENT PROJECT--Ivan Garrido, acting president of the National Ports Institute, has announced that his institute is carrying out a development program in Puerto Cabello with an investment of 225 million bolivares. [Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 29 Apr 78 PA]

LABOR RALLY POORLY ATTENDED; LABOR LEADER BOOED

PA011939Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1752 GMT 1 May 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 1 May (ACAN-EFE)--Some 2,000 workers celebrated International Labor Day today with a rally in downtown Panama City. The ceremony was opened by Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath, archbishop of Panama. Labor leaders and Labor Minister Adolfo Ahumada addressed the gathering.

The only point of agreement between the speakers and the audience was the call for the revocation of Law 95, which was approved by the government over 1 year ago to reactivate the economy. This law curtails labor rights provided for in the 1972 labor code.

"The treaties are no longer an excuse; down with Law 95," said one of the placards displayed at the 5th of May Plaza, the site of the demonstration.

Apart from the revocation of that emergency legislation, there was little on which those gathered to commemorate Labor Day agreed.

As Angel Gomez, one of Panama's foremost labor leaders, was reading his speech, groups of demonstrators opposed to his progovernment policies booed, whistled and interrupted him constantly.

Along with members of the Christian labor unions, communists and other groups which support the government to a greater or lesser degree, there were workers and students from radical groups which oppose the regime.

Minister Ahumada's speech was very brief. His only announcement of importance was that Gen Omar Torrijos' government does not plan to extend the present freeze on collective contracts after December. This announcement was received with applause and shouts.

A labor leader commented to newsmen that this was one of the smallest Labor Day rallies in recent years.

VICE MINISTER ON NEED FOR REVIEWING LABOR-MANAGEMENT LAW

PA282153Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 28 Apr 78 pp 1, 18 PA

[Antonio Graell article]

[Text] Jorge Ritter, vice minister of labor and social welfare, yesterday stated that once the data on the results of the implementation of Law 95 are obtained, there will be a need for a thorough review of this controversial law which deals with labor-management relations.

For its part, the Labor Ministry acknowledges the workers' participation in the national liberation process because it knows that in spite of the struggle being waged by the working class for the annulment of Law 95, the workers unions understood the need to join in national unity at the critical moment when the destiny of the fatherland was at stake at the negotiating table for the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

Now that that stage has been overcome, it is necessary to evaluate Law 95, not only as far as labor stability is concerned, but in other aspects as well.

Moreover, Ritter noted that the deadline to resume negotiations for collective bargaining agreements--which were suspended more than 1 year ago--expires on 31 December 1978.

DISMISSED EMERGENCY PLAN WORKERS STAGE DEMONSTRATION

PA271819Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 26 Apr 78 pp 1, 28 PA

[Mario Martinez P. article]

[Text] Vice President Gerardo Gonzalez announced yesterday morning that no order has been given to put an end to the "emergency plan" and that no specific quota has been set for the dismissal of persons employed under this plan. The vice president made the announcement while a group of approximately 300 persons carried out a protest demonstration in front of the presidential palace. The demonstrators were protesting their dismissal on 19 April "despite General Torrijos' order that the emergency plan would remain in effect."

Vice President Gonzalez told a delegation from the group of demonstrators that "they could return to their employment centers where cases would be studied individually to determine the situation and to correct any possible error."

The group, made up of women, chanted slogans in front of the presidential palace requesting jobs while President Demetrio B. Lakas observed the situation from one of the balconies.

Meanwhile, Vice President Gerardo Gonzalez and Presidency Minister Fernando Manfredo were establishing contacts with the various ministries "to have all persons unjustifiably dismissed reinstated in their jobs."

This announcement was made by the demonstrators' delegation to the group outside the presidential palace. The group received the news with an ovation for Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos.

The demonstrators had also chanted: "Torrijos, if your children are hungry, who is going to defend the canal?" In an obvious allusion to Omar's saying that "children are the favored of the revolution."

The group of women cannot understand why they have been dismissed "at a moment when they most need a salary to be able to solve the demands of their children who have just started their school year."

Mrs Constancia Aldeano, one of the spokeswomen for the demonstrators, said that they would like to meet with General Torrijos since they have the feeling they are being lied to. She said that she does not agree with any dismissal "because we all need a job."

Vice President Gonzalez told the author of this article that an investigation will be made to determine in which cases dismissals are justified due to lack of discipline, absence from jobs or because the persons involved live with relatives who have an adequate income.

In regard to this, Norberta Tejada, general director of the Social Welfare Office of the Labor Ministry, which has dismissed approximately 210 workers hired during the emergency plan, stated during a telephone interview: "A social and economic poll has been conducted and as a result it has been determined that the persons who have been dismissed had other sources of income. There were no jobs available for them."

Tejada noted that many of these persons were included in a substitute program which gives them 25 balboas a month.

The Labor Ministry, she said, has given various jobs to 90 persons. "Meanwhile," she noted, "we will study the cases of the affected persons. Those who really need a job and have maintained an acceptable level of conduct will be given employment."

Meanwhile, Francisco Becerra, coordinator of the Professional Formation Center (a Labor Ministry entity which was in charge of 608 persons within the emergency plan, giving them various training courses), has stated that 177 persons have lost their jobs "as a result of a social and economic study."

According to Becerra, that study established that 93 of those who took the training courses have been granted a pension of 25 balboas a month and that the rest have been relocated in various offices of the Labor Ministry.

Becerra also stated: "The decision to reduce personnel under the emergency plan was made by Presidency Minister Fernando Manfredo, who gave this order to all the ministries in two memorandums." "Apparently," Becerra noted, "the persons who have been affected think that it was I who dismissed them. However, I did not do it."

At noon yesterday social workers from the Labor Ministry were interviewing all the persons who have been dismissed at the office of the Professional Formation Center, located near the new Tocumen airport. These cases will be studied again and the results of this study will be announced on Friday.

$16 MILLION ALLOCATED FOR EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT PLAN

PA292305Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 26 Apr 78 p 1A PA

[Franklin Bosquez d'Giovanni article]

[Text] Comptroller General Damian Castillo Duran told LA REPUBLICA today that the central government has allocated 16 million balboas to pay the wages of more than 20,000 workers involved in the so-called "emergency plan" this year. Castillo stressed that as Chief of Government Omar Torrijos recently announced, "the emergency plan has not ended and will continue."

The comptroller general added that the central government has paid out a total of 8.4 million balboas under the emergency plan during the period from 16 November 1977--the date when it began--to 15 April 1978.

Regarding the exact number of workers, Castillo reported that there has been a noticeable decrease. For example, as of 28 February there were 25,138 workers; as of 31 March, there were 24,553 workers and as of 15 April there were 23,053 workers.

Asked about the reasons for this decrease, Castillo said there are many reasons, such as resignations, disciplinary problems, loafing and other reasons. "The worker who does not work must be dismissed. Nevertheless, there are many who have been enrolled in the regular payroll because of their good work, and thus they do not appear on the payroll of the emergency plan. Here in the comptrollership we had 60 of those workers and 20 of them have been appointed regular employees because of their ability and good conduct," the comptroller added.

COMPANY ESTABLISHED FOR TRANSSHIPMENT OF OIL

PA281553Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Petroterminal de Panama--A company recently established by the Norville Industrial Corporation of Long Island, New York, and the National Financial Corporation of Panama--is involved in the transshipment of oil, particularly from Alaska, across our isthmus.

Petroterminal Director General Jose Arosemena said in an interview with Radio Libertad that, in view of the new pattern of distribution to be applied to crude oil from Alaska and in a new recognition of Panama's great natural resource--our geographic position--it was determined that transshipment operations are feasible here.

These operations are necessary because the volume of crude oil transported to Port Valdez for the trans-Alaska pipeline would be approximately 100 percent more than the refineries on the Pacific coast of the United States require for their needs.

PROFESSOR JULIO YAU ADDRESSES FORUM ON TREATIES

PA291240Y Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Speech by Professor Julio Yau, former Foreign Ministry adviser, at a forum in Panama University school of architecture sponsored by Coordinating Committee of Independent University Movement, attended by opposition leaders, university students and professors, and former exiles--live]

[Excerpts] The neutrality treaty is not a neutrality treaty, but a military pact which actually constitutes a military alliance between Panama and the United States, an alliance which, because of the difference in the strength of the parties, makes Panama a virtual protectorate in perpetuity. The neutrality pact establishes for Panama and Latin America the principle of limited sovereignty which some attribute to the Soviet Union in relation to the socialist nations of Eastern Europe. The neutrality pact confirms the concept of spheres of influence and the policy of blocs, all of which are totally contrary to the basic principles of the nonalined movement of which Panama is a member. The neutrality pact stipulates the sovereignty of the Republic of Panama conditioned to the vital interests of the United States which, in this manner, will exercise a permanent dominance over the Republic of Panama. According to Article 53 of the Vienna convention on the law on treaties, the neutrality pact can be voided because it is in conflict with various principles of general international law, which by definition are inviolable, such as the principle of nonintervention, territorial integrity and political independence. It also can ve voided by virtue of Article 103 of the UN Charter, which makes the above-mentioned general principles prevail over any contractual commitment that contradicts them.

The neutrality pact is a mockery to all possible expressions of Panamanian sovereignty. The neutrality pact has no arbitration clause or denunciation caluse because it was drafted to the satisfaction of the Pentagon. The United States will be the self-appointed and unilateral arbiter in perpetuity, because there is no way for Panama to rid itself of this yoke, just as it was expected that Panama could not rid itself of the perpetual 1903 treaty.

The neutrality pact is irregular according to international law, which automatically nullifies it. It is irregular because of the greatly irregular circumstances that surrounded its negotiation, or rather, its imposition, as well as because of the marked irregularity in the establishing of rights and duties to each of the parties.

The neutrality pact was imposed through economic and financial blackmail and coersion, in a rapacious and dominating spirit exercised under conditions of an absolute lack of resistance on the part of Panama, which is constrained by its profound dependence on the United States and by the total lack of nationalistic feeling on the part of the government.

The above in no way exempts from responsibility those who failed to place the nation's permanent interests above transitory and subordinate interests. The neutrality pact in all its articles exclusively describes the duties and responsibilities of Panama, but not its rights, while it establishes privileged rights for the United States and other nations, with the only duty for the United States being its right to intervene unilaterally in Panama. Therefore, the only right of Panama is the right to accept intervention and the only duty of the United States is to intervene in Panama.

FORMER EXILE TURNER SPEAKS AT UNIVERSITY FORUM

PA2823Z1Y Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Speech by former exile Jorge Turner at forum held at Panama university school of architecture sponsored by Coordinating Committee of Independent University Movement, attended by opposition leaders, university students and professors, and former exiles--live]

[Excerpts] As I was about to enter this room, I heard someone say behind my back that my struggle was aimed at restoring the traditional oligarchy and bringing about a positive change in the present military regime. I wish to state clearly that I am here representing the people who struggle and who have been banished to Sweden, Venezuela and Mexico. I have no intention of returning to the past but plan to work to create a bright future. Also, we are here representing the common interests of other exiles who have recently returned to Panama and who struggle for the right of the working, peasant, and middle classes to organize themselves and struggle for their own interests and impose their will. [applause]

The group that I represent has the purpose of seeing to it that democratic liberties become a reality. I represent the relatives of those persons who are missing. Therefore, I demand that the national government give us satisfactory explanations concerning their whereabouts. I also represent the relatives of those killed in action against the military regime in the first repressive days of this government. [applause]

Now, we wish to advance, to provoke a legal disposition, a decree that will offer some guarantees to my comrades who have been charged with homicide and so forth so that they will be able to return to the fatherland and together struggle for the sacred things we believe in. We know that such a decree would not be a sufficient guaranttee, but it is a step we must take in order to advance in our struggle for democratic liberties, a struggle based on the mobilization of the people and pressure against the government.

The government has voiced its decision to allow the return of all exiles, without exception, and has made a promise to this effect. Therefore, the government should not be opposed to issuing a formal document containing this promise. We must not rely on the government's words alone and we should not compare this situation to similar cases in other Latin American countries where exiles were allowed to return and where corresponding decrees were issued. The government here operates on promises which it fulfills for a time and then revokes. Evidence of this is the promise to allow a system of political parties to operate, which we, of course, would use to create a (?new party).

However, at the same time it makes such a promise, it announces the return of the exiles and then creates an electoral process based on individual nominations which does not allow the participation of political parties. I avail myself of this opportunity to describe such an electoral process as an outrageous scheme of the present regime to remain in power for another 6 years.

Some time ago, I said that with the new treaties there were plans to pass from colonialism to neocolonialism and that the newly created neocolonialism would be less vulnerable than the present classic colonialism to which we are subjugated. Actually, I should have said more at that time because the new treaties simply turn Panama into a protectorate. A protectorate is an institution which is absolete in international law and belongs to the era of backward colonialism. This very special situation created by the new treaties is a result not only of the fact that the treaties are an element of the Carter policy so very well summarized by Goroceaga, but of the fact that the treaties are the result of the (?patches) put on by Carter and the bilateral commission and the most backward elements of U.S. capitalism. To summarize, the new treaties are the result of a combination of the most backward U.S. capitalist elements and transnational capital.

Those of us who believe there is a need in this country to establish a regime of authentic social justice, a regime of economic independence, how the hell are we going to agree with treaties which not only have interventionist clauses, but also want to convert the country into a paradise for transnationals? The first thing we have to do in this program of struggle is, I think, to impede the visit of President Carter to this country because it would be an insult to our national dignity. [applause] Recently, I was told that it is almost certain that Carter will not come. I do not know if this is true. But if this is true, that would be our first victory since the exiles returned to Panama. [applause]

We also wish to demand a plebiscite from the government. We want to win this victory. But this time, we will not be naive enough to demand just an ordinary plebiscite. We will set conditions for the plebiscite. We are not going to exert pressure to have the government convoke just another plebiscite, allowing us to become trapped by the government's attempt--through a well-planned fraud--to make it appear that the treaties had again been ratified in Panama. That is why we must establish conditions for the plebiscite, so that there will be a debate in which all parties will have equal access to the mass information media; that is, press, radio and television. There should be sufficient time for debate so that the citizenry will be informed and the opponents of the Torrijos-Carter treaties will be represented in sufficient numbers to prevent fraud. [applause]

It is about time that we connect the struggle for sovereignty with the struggle for economic development; the struggle for territorial achievements with the struggle for Panamanian control of its main economic resource, which is the canal; the struggle for sovereignty, I repeat, with the struggle for breaking the international financial center. It is also time we realize that in view of the government's plans to remain in power for another 6 years, the struggle against the treaties will also involve the struggle to prevent the government from staying in power, since it has not been able to meet the most basic anti-imperialist requirements of a fatherland struggling for national liberation.

To conclude, I wish to say on behalf of my comrades that since it is our desire to identify ourselves with the basic problems of the Panamanian nation and the dispossessed classes of the country, and since the circumstances of life made us fighters, I wish to say on their behalf that we are willing to participate with renewed spirit, guided by the principle that a revolutionary must be active to the very end.

CONCERN VOICED OVER SQUATTERS IN CANAL ZONE

PA281405Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Text of letter written by Dr Pedro Galindo, of the Gorgas Memorial Hospital, and sent to the Televisora Nacional offices--read by announcer; date not given]

[Text] While part of our people are joyously celebrating the government's victory in securing the ratification of the Torrijos-Carter treaties and the other part has undertaken the futile task of criticizing all the aspects which they consider to be negative concerning the ratification of the treaties, I am deeply concerned over my analysis of many aerial photographs of the Panama Canal Zone which show the large forest areas that have been recently cut down by our peasants. To the knowledge of the zonian officials, these people are settling the jungle areas which remain along the banks of the canal and with matches and machetes are destroying the wooded cover that is the only protection which will insure the proper operation of the canal after the year 2000. When Senator Brooke's reservation is implemented and we begin to exercise jurisdiction over the canal territory, Pedro Galindo says, after October 1979, we will find those lands occupied not by U.S. soldiers but by Panamanian squatters whose eviction will pose a serious social problem to the government and whose permanent settlement there will pose a danger to the future operation of the canal since erosion and sedimentation will increase rapidly, making dredging costs absolutely impossible.

Based on (Daubermier's) work carried out in 1972 in Guanacaste, Costa Rica, scientists of the Smithsonian Institute have estimated that for every hectare that is cleared of trees and undergrowth along the banks of the canal, sedimentation will increase by over 50 cubic meters of soil [unit of measure as heard]. If the entire jungle area along the canal basin were cut down, sedimentation would increase by 14,273,500 cubic meters of soil, which would increase dredging costs geometrically.

I address you, Pedro Galindo's letter says, so that you will publicize my concern in the hope that attention will be given to this problem before it is too late.

Cordially yours,

[signed] Pedro Galindo

POLISARIO FRONT MEMBERS ARRIVE FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

PA020111Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 May 78 PA

[Text] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry has announced that five members of the POLISARIO Front are paying an official visit to this capital. The visitors arrived from Jamaica yesterday afternoon, where they met with Prime Minister Michael Manley.

The group, led by (Mustafa Bushiri), deputy secretary general of the POLISARIO Front, was received by several Foreign Ministry officials and is currently visiting various sites of interest in our capital.

The group will remain in Panama until Friday, when it will hold a news conference before concluding its visit.

EL SALVADOR

LA PRENSA GRAFICA ON COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF CHURCH

PA020353Y San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Apr 78 p 35 PA

[Jose L. Salcedo C. article: "Agitation, Subversion, Insurrection, Part II"]

[Text] In order to assess correctly the conflicting situation created by the Communist Party of El Salvador [PCES], it is indispensable that some of its background be reviewed; otherwise, one would see only a few unorganized parts of the revolutionary picture, which is much broader and more complex. This explains why so much attention has been focused on the Salvadoran Christian Peasants Federation (FECCAS) and the Farm Workers Union (UTC), overlooking the fact that the PCES exists. By looking at two trees only, we have lost sight of the entire forest.

In 1960 the PCES held a plenum, the results of which we are experiencing. At that high-level meeting party leaders indulged in some self-criticism and admitted that the party had become a comfortable shelter for RESENTFUL INTELLECTUALS and FAILING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS and that it had neglected contact with the working masses. The plenum agreed that it was necessary to create the subjective conditions required to promote revolution or, in other words, that the awareness of the workers and peasants had to be raised in order to establish an ironclad unity among them as the only way to insure victory for the Salvadoran proletariat.

This WORKER-PEASANT UNITY, they said, meant having to overcome a difficult obstacle, that is, the INFLUENCE OF THE CATHOLIC CLERGY OVER THE PEASANTRY. However, during the administration of the government junta many communist students invaded the rural areas in order to teach communism to the peasants and workers in the countryside.

The communist plan failed resoundingly after the civic-military directorate assumed power on 25 January 1961. The new government enacted a number of social reforms in favor of the peasants and rural workers, reforms which were always opposed by the affected landowners. The reforms were continued at a more moderate pace by subsequent administrations until the present government enacted the LAW ON THE TERRITORIAL TAX ON AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK to "promote well-being among the lower income groups, PARTICULARLY IN THE RURAL AREAS, where services and benefits must be expanded to solve health, education, housing and other problems," as the first paragraph of the law's preamble reads.

If there is one thing one must admire in communists, it is their perservance in attaining their goals. The students who went to the rural areas in 1960 may have failed in their bid to win the peasants over to communism, but 10 or 12 years later the PCES, through the PROGRESSIVE PRIESTS, began to bring about the WORKER-PEASANT UNITY in the Archdiocese of San Salvador and came close to establishing it in several localities in the archdiocese where the land is more broadly distributed among small peasant owners. This was the case in El Paisnal and Aguilares, for example. These cities and their respective cantons and hamlets became the archdiocese's "EXPERIMENTAL AREA" for the promotion of the so-called "CHURCH OF THE POOR," having a class connotation not to be found in the Gospel but perhaps in the Medellin documents.

I sincerely confess that I supported and was sympathetic to Monsignor Romero's initial position. When he became intemperate in his speech and adopted an AGGRESSIVE AND MILITANT LINE utterly opposed to a calm and tactful dialog, however, I realized that his intelligence and kindness were being subtly used by the communists and that he was being turned into A TOOL OF THEIR PLANS. They were leading him into unwittingly promoting the insurrectional plans of the Popular Revolutionary Bloc (BPR). This bloc has turned FECCAS and the UTC into beachheads of communist infiltration among the rural population of the archdiocese with obvious connivance of PROGRESSIVE PRIESTS who are committed to Marxism. In view of their complete theological and philosophical ignorance, I doubt that these priests understand Marxism's most elementary and basic principles. I make this statement based on a conversation I held with Father Alas when this BRAIN of the archdiocese's clergy was director of the COURSES ON CHRISTIANITY and had Monsignor Chavez y Gonzalez under his sway. Good heavens, I wonder what the other ones are like!

Whoever has listened to the programs of the radio station controlled by the archbishopric must have thought, as I did, that they were listening to Radio Havana. It carries mischievously distorted news, commentaries following the BPR's line and foreign protest songs advocating class struggle. These, among others, are the station's usual themes. Now then, all this is done under the guise of Christianity or, rather, of a Marxist-inspired neo-Christianity of which the CHURCH OF THE POOR is the custodian. They could have called it the church of the peasants, or of the workers, or of the artisans and so forth, but they could not have called it the church of the rich because the rich are excluded from the Marxist paradise. The true church of Christ is holy, Catholic, apostolic and Roman. At least this is what I learned in Sunday school. This church admits no class discriminations within it.

Voices with an unmistakable foreign accent are also heard over the archbishopric's station giving commentaries on NATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES which are constitutionally barred even to the native priests. Let Monsignor Romero not talk of a PERSECUTED CHURCH if these priests or clergymen are expelled from the country. If the government allowed them to carry out activities which are expressly prohibited by the country's laws, it would not only fail to do its duty but would establish a system of privileges which would be incompatible with the constitutional principles of equality before the law. When Jesus was tempted by the Pharisees, he said: "Give unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God!"

Without malice or acrimony, I think that what has happened to Monsignor Romero is the same thing that happened to the small Indian boy who found a tiger cub and confidently rode him to his humble hut. The day came when the tiger, having reached adulthood, did not let the terrified child ride him but instead took him to his den to devour him. The moral is clear.

GUATEMALA

DEFENSE MINISTER TO GO TO ISRAEL TO BUY ARMS

PA011346Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2136 GMT 30 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--National Defense Minister Gen Otto Spiegeler will go to Israel to buy arms for the Guatemalan Army.

In announcing General Spiegeler's trip today, a government spokesman explained that Guatemala will try to obtain modern military equipment for the Guatemalan Armed Forces from Israel in view of the fact that the United States has refused to continue supplying this modern equipment to Guatemala. The United States has traditionally been the Guatemalan Government's main source of arms, but in recent years the quantity of arms provided by that country has been gradually reduced. Not long ago President Jimmy Carter refused to authorize the sale of five modern military aircraft to Guatemala, alleging that they could be used by Guatemala in trying to seize the territory of Belize, which it has been claiming for the past 100 years, from Great Britain.

On the other hand, Gen Kjell Laugerud's government rejected a U.S. military aid program because it was tied to periodic reviews on the human rights situation in Guatemala, a condition which that country did not accept.

PEACEFUL MARCH IN CAPITAL MARKS LABOR DAY

PA020240Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2212 GMT 1 May 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 May (ACAN-EFE)--The largest labor march in the past 10 years took place in Guatemala today to mark 1 May. No incidents were reported.

The powerful National Council on Labor Unity called on all its affiliated unions to demonstrate on this International Labor Day by showing a force unprecedented in the past 10 years. With red flags and chanting the slogan "a united people will never be defeated," about 20,000 demonstrators, most of them workers, peasants and students, marched for 2 hours through downtown Guatemala City and ended the march with a rally at Centennial Park in front of the national palace.

The demonstrators called for an end to labor repression, a solution to the problem of the high cost of living and greater unity of all trade unions in the country.

HONDURAS

MAY DAY SPEAKERS ATTACK GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION

PA020430Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2109 GMT 1 May 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 May (ACAN-EFE)--Violent attacks against the military government's corrupt administration and the U.S. banana companies were the highlights of the speeches made by top Honduran labor leaders who observed International Labor Day at the Central Plaza today.

After gathering since early morning to the cry of "the people united will never be defeated," the workers applauded their leaders, who criticized the government's recent acts of administrative dishonesty. In their speeches the labor leaders concentrated on charges of illegal payments having been made by the transnational Castle and Cook and United Brands companies to military officers and public officials.

They also demanded punishment for the militarymen involved in the extensive narcotics trafficking that was denounced by the head of the Honduran Interpol himself.

The government was criticized for its cooperation with the Nicaraguan Government in the execution of Operation Veloz, which was intended to disband the Sandinist guerrilla movement.

Oscar Escalande of the General Workers Central said that this was not a festive day but a day of denouncing "the corruption that vilifies the fatherland's dignity, a mark that weighs heavily on the government presided over by Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro."

"When it arrived in power, the military offered us happiness and surrounded us with misery. It has forgotten the national development plan and has mortgaged us with heavy loans. It offered us justice and raised prices," the leader charged.

In line with the antigovernment charges, Olvin Rodriguez, president of the Federation of Honduran University Students, said that the only solution to the crisis and corruption is the implementation of socialism, which gives power to the workers.

The student leader recalled the regime's continuous attacks against the people of Honduras, giving as examples the imprisonment of 10 peasants of the Isletas enterprise, the dismemberment of the unions located in northern coastal area, the sacking of public funds and the smuggling of basic grains by public officials.

The agrarian reform, a painful thorn among other Honduran problems, was denounced by Marcial Euceda, leader of the National Peasants Union, who defined it as a farce managed at will by the large landholders. Euceda said that he could not euphorically celebrate 1 May when thousands of peasants have been persecuted and jailed by the army for protesting against the stagnation of the agrarian reform, which, in his opinion, serves only the landowners.

He underscored the crowd's refusal to allow Reyes Rodriguez, president of the National Peasants Association, to speak. Recently, Rodriguez condemned the recovery of lands by the National Peasants Union in seven of the nation's departments. The veteran leader, who at other times had been applauded by the masses, tried to speak on several times, but his fellows booed him and shouted protests, forcing him to leave the rostrum without having achieved his goal.

A strong of speakers--student and union leaders--ridiculed the government's slogan of "direct contact" launched recently by the Ministry of Information on the occasion of Melgar Castro's third year in office.

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA MAY DAY SPEECH INTERRUPTED BY LOUD NOISE

PA011925Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1804 GMT 1 May 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 1 May (AFP)--The sound of an explosion almost caused the crowd to stampede today during a Labor Day rally. The incident occurred in Managua's main plaza as President Anastasio Somoza was making a speech. About 5 minutes after Somoza started speaking, the sound of an explosiion frightened the crowd which started running in all directions.

Somoza himself appealed for calm, but it took him some time to restore order. After repeated appeals by the president, who explained that the noise had been caused by a jet flying over the plaza, the crowd slowly calmed down. However, some people left the plaza anyway.

No official report has been given on the cause of the explosion or if the ensuing disorder, which lasted about 10 minutes, resulted in any casualties.

Somoza spoke to members of the General Labor Confederation--which supports the government--from a special rostum protected by bulletproof glass which he almost always uses when speaking in public. Police helicopters and light planes overflew the rally while numerous soldiers guarded entrances.

Organizers of the rally attributed the incident, which almost caused a mass panic, to the tension produced by the agitation of the past 3 months. Last week it was rumored that the opposition would set off a new popular rebellion on 1 May.

This morning opposition groups stoned several public service buses in southeastern Managua and put them out of service. A lumberyard burned down this morning in the same area. The fire was said to be an act of sabotage against the government.

At the same time Somoza was speaking, police dispersed two demonstrations organized by the Socialist Party in the southeast and northeast corners of the capital. It was feared that both Socialist factions would try to march downtown to clash with the authorized rally, whose members were the only persons permitted to march.

In his speech Somoza insisted that the Liberal Party, over which he presides, has made a peaceful revolution in the country, improving the workers' living conditions. He repeated that it was reactionary capitalism which tried to overthrow him in January with a general strike and that the workers did not participate in that effort.

STUDENTS END STRIKE, PLEDGE RETURN TO CLASSES

PA011539Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 1 May 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The student strike in Nicaragua has ended. The 50,000 high school students in the country will return to classes tomorrow now that the government has responded satisfactorily to the seven points submitted to President Gen Anastasio Somoza.

Among the concessions granted by the Somoza regime to the students are: the ending of the isolation of Tomas Borge and Marcio Jaen, Sandinist National Liberation Front members, to which they have been subjected for the past 2 years; the release of political prisoner Maria Marta Gomez from prison, where she gave birth to a baby a month ago; and the release of 100 high school students who were arrested during the strike, which lasted 35 days. The students have announced that they will evacuate all the schools they are occupying.

AUTHORITIES ARREST LABOR LEADER CORDOBA RIVAS

PA011944Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1720 GMT 1 May 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 1 May (ACAN-EFE)--Rafael Cordoba Rivas, president of the Democratic Liberation Union (UDEL), was arrested by a military patrol in this capital today, Monday. News of the arrest of Cordoba Rivas, leader of the coalition of opposition parties and labor unions, was confirmed by Col Alesio Gutierrez, the city's police chief. Although he did not reveal the charges against Cordoba Rivas, Colonel Gutierrez indicated that the opposition leader "will be detained for several hours."

Cordoba Rivas was arrested near the Las Palmas Catholic Church in this city, where the General Independent Workers Confederation (CGTI) had planned to hold a workers meeting on the occasion of International Labor Day. According to other reports, Cordoba Rivas was arrested for trying to intercede in favor of unidentified persons who were being arrested.

The leaders of the leftist CGTI were unable to hold their meeting because 10 military patrol cars blocked the workers' access to the church where they were supposed to meet. The police argued that the CGTI leaders did not have an official permit to hold the meeting.

Police Chief Col Alesio Gutierrez was personally in command of all the patrols stationed near Las Palmas Church. The patrols blocked the way to the church and dispersed a group of workers who demanded the meeting be held.

Almost at the same time, the Democratic General Labor Confederation (CGTD) held a meeting in La Republica Square with the government's backing. President Anastasio Somoza was the main speaker.

GOVERNMENT MINISTER ON RADIO MUNDIAL CLOSING

PA282142Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1720 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] A delegation of Nicaragua's associated news media met Government Minister Antonio Mora Rostran 1 hour ago to discuss the closing of Radio Mundial. The delegation was headed by Fabio (Gadea) Mantilla, general manager of Radio Corporacion. The other members of the delegation were Danilo Aguirre, deputy director of the daily LA PRENSA; Manuel Espinoza, television director; Octavio Sacaza, coowner of Channel 2; and Manuel Arana (Harding), owner of Radio Mundial.

Minister Mora said he had received Radio Mundial's appeal and that he would study it in the next few days. Complying with a request from the associated news media delegation, Government Minister Mora said he would arrange a meeting with the National Guard staff. The intermediary in this effort will be Col Aquiles Aranda Escobar.

It may be recalled that on 27 March the National Guard protested to radio and television chief Col Alberto Luna about information broadcast by Radio Mundial. This resulted in a trial in which the closing of the radio station was decided.

Suspension Reduced

PA302058Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0210 GMT 30 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 30 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Government Minister Jose Antonio Mora Rostran has limited the closing of Radio Mundial to 15 days. Col Alberto Luna, national radio and television director, had ordered it closed for 90 days. The station was closed on Monday and will reopen on 7 May according to the government minister's ruling.

The ruling against Luna's sentence was issued today. In it the minister changed the part of the sentence applying to Radio Mundial's broadcasts, limiting the suspension to 15 days in view of the "degree of responsibility of the station and the extreme severity" of the judge's sentence. However, Mora confirmed the fine of 5,000 cordobas ($714) and the 90-day suspension of the director of "El Momento."

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DAY MARKED IN HAVANA

Television Coverage

FL011518 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish at 1445 GMT on 1 May carries live coverage of May Day celebrations from Havana's Plaza de la Revolucion. Color television coverage opens with various shots of the plaza and surrounding area and the crowd gathered there waiting for the ceremony to start. In setting the scene before the ceremony begins, various television announcers interview some of the people present.

A poster on the national library building located across from the Jose Marti monument shows a picture of the late labor leader Lazaro Pena with the inscription: "To the 14th Congress"--a reference to the next congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] to be held later this year. Another shows a huge portrait of Che Guevara, while yet another poster shows Marx, Engels and Lenin.

The parade participants can be seen already formed and ready to pass in review. At 1458 GMT Fidel Castro, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and other officials walk to a position in front of the column. The national anthem is played as the cameras focus on the Cuban flag, and a 12,200-voice "choir" which sings the anthem. A gun salute is rendered and then Castro and the other officials march toward the dais and take their positions there. Other officials seen are Politburo members Osvaldo Dorticos, Pedro Miret, Ramiro Valdes and Army Gen Raul Castro.

At 1509 GMT, following repeated singing of the "Guerrillero" march, television staff announcer Manolo Ortega sets the scene and announces that Fidel Castro Ruz "and the other members of the PCC Politburo and Secretariat" and other leaders are presiding over the ceremony. He adds that Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, representatives of the diplomatic corps, and national work heroes are also on the dais. He then introduces CTC Secretary General Roberto Veiga, who begins speaking at 1511 GMT. Veiga ends his speech at 1520 GMT.

The parade then begins at 1520 GMT with "1,000 pioneers" heading it. The pioneers are followed by a column of candidates for delegates to the 11th World Youth and Students Festival carrying the festival's emblem and flags of various nations. After this column come the following: 1,100 foreign residents, including "more than 400 Soviet specialists; "12,500 intermediate-level school students, including Presidente Allende Teacher Training School students, carrying a sign reading "education is the future of the new generations"; Havana City child care center instructors training school students, and representatives of other schools such as polytechnical and vocational schools.

The student columns are followed by a Camilo Cienfuegos Military School band and a column of marchers representing military schools. The next column represents the Federation of University Students.

The Restaurant and Hotel Workers Trade Union representation then opens the segment of the parade consisting of the various trade unions. Next come sugar industry workers, construction workers trade union members carrying a float with a picture of Castro and "an industrial plant recently completed, "construction Microbrigade" members, and other trade union representations, all of them carrying youth festival emblems and flowers.

The last group of workers, who represent the National Association of Small Farmers, is followed by the Revolutionary Armed Forces band. It is followed by ground troops carrying small arms. The first of such groups represent the various armed forces schools, followed by units representing the western army, the youth labor army and the National Revolutionary Militia--which closes the parade at 1638 GMT. The choir then sings the Internationale as the cameras focus on the Marx, Engels and Lenin poster with the legend: "The future belongs entirely to socialism."

At 1640 GMT Castro waves to the crowd and begins to leave the dais. Television coverage ends at 1641 GMT with a final shot of the Marti monument.

Roberto Veiga Address

FL011820Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1511 GMT 1 May 78 FL

[Speech by Roberto Veiga Menendez, member of the PCC Central Committee and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC], at May Day celebration in Plaza de la Revolucion, Havana--live]

[Text] Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of our party and president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers; comrades of the Politburo, Secretariat and Central Committee of the party; Comrades guests; comrades on the presidency; comrades:

We jubilantly celebrate this 1 May on the eve of the 11th World Youth and Students Festival under the formidable revolutionary stimulus of the victories of socialism and internationalism in Ethiopia and just a few days since the extraordinary solidarity event on the occasion of the visit of dear Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam [applause] and at the time at which the Cuban working class, enthusiastic and committed as a result of the recent tour by Comrade Fidel of several industrial projects and sugar mills in the country, is devoting all its energy to fulfilling our economic development plans and to the intense battle to achieve the present sugarcane harvest and carry out the tasks in sugarcane agriculture within the framework of the 100 days of decisive effort--which will demand an extraordinary effort in the current month of May.

We dedicate this workers' celebration to the great world youth encounter which will be held in our revolutionary and socialist fatherland. We dedicate this 1 May to the 25th anniversary of the glorious assault on the Moncada barracks, the deed that made it possible for us to raise in our land the banners of friendship, unity and solidarity with all progressive and struggling youth of the world. We wish to point out that for the 11th festival emulation held last year more than 2.125 million workers made individual pledges, of which 1.9 million workers satisfactorily fulfilled their pledges. This extraordinary effort allowed the trade union movement nationally to fulfill the indicators established and to achieve successes as important as the saving of over 100 million pesos and the early completion of production and service plans at 90,000... [Veiga corrects himself], 9,000 work centers.

On this day we especially send our warmest greetings to the workers who, in the sugarcane fields, in transportation, at the foot of the machinery in the sugarcane mills and in the ports, are carrying on a vigorous and unselfish effort to overcome difficulties and delays caused by rain and other problems to assure the strict fulfillment of the sugar production plan set for this year and assure larger sugarcane harvests in the coming years.

Our recognition and encouragement go to all workers who give themselves with revolutionary passion to the struggle to raise productivity and production, to improve quality of service and double savings, to achieve a sixth-grade education if they do not have it already, and to train themselves culturally and technically to be able to contribute more to the struggle for efficiency in our economy. Our fraternal embrace goes to the heroes and heroines of work and sugar harvest and the outstanding workers of the national trade unions who honor this tribune--along with the representatives of the peasants, youth, students, the heroic Cuban women and the combatants of our glorious Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Interior Ministry--as an expression of the unbreakable unity of all our people around Fidel, the party and the triumphant banners of the socialist revolution.

Late this year our trade union movement will hold the 14th CTC Congress. This event, following and expanding on the clear path outlined by the 13th Congress and enriched by the agreements of the party's historic 1st Congress, will be the democratic vehicle by which to strengthen even more the trade unionists work and role in our society and to carry forward the will and decision of the Cuban working class to give all its effort, talent and energy to achieving the objectives pointed out by Comrade Fidel, to pledge ourselves to develop and consolidate our economy to the maximum in the coming years. Under the motto "for a 14th Congress directed at favoring the solution of our vital economic problems," the workers will march forward in the next few months in preparations for a worthy celebration of this important happening.

On this international day of the workers, a day of solidarity and unity in the struggle of the workers of the whole world, we heartily embrace our class brothers in any corner of the world; the workers of the socialist community and especially our dear Soviet workers, who are the liberated and solidary vanguard of humanity; our brothers of Angola and Ethiopia and the other revolutionary countries, bold creators of the new world [applause]; the workers and peoples fighting fascism and reactionary tyranny; our class comrades in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Asia and Africa, who are fighting for complete independence and against imperialistic exploitation; all workers of the world confronting capitalism; all men and women battling for the noble ideals of peoples' liberation, justice, progress and peace.

Let us raise our voices very high, as high as these Red proletarian flags which today wave proudly alongside the glorious flag of the fatherland, so that the emotional greetings of our people reaches their vigorous and heroic sons who, far from Cuba, are fulfilling with revolutionary honor their internationalist duties as workers or combatants. [applause] Let us be inspired by these compatriots. Let us take their courage, unselfishness and hard work to the daily battle for production. And, so that this is the worthy homage of the Cuban working class to all those who forged their liberty on this 1 May, on this happy and splendid 1 May, let us recall with deep affection Comrade Lazaro Pena, to whom we say [applause, standing ovation], to whom we say: Captain and Master, the ship which by your intellect and your arms you helped build today sails the way you wanted it to. It is maintained with their arms and minds by our working class which you exemplarily educated and loved with revolutionary passion. Its prow advances triumphantly toward socialism, led by the party and by our chief and guide, Comrade Fidel. [applause]

Long live 1 May! [applause, shouts of "viva"] Long live our working class! [applause, shouts of "viva"] Long live proletarian internationalism! [applause, shouts of "viva"] Long live the Cuban Communist Party! [applause, shouts of "viva"] Long live Fidel! [applause, shouts of "viva"] Fatherland or death, we will win! [applause, shouts of "venceremos"]

CUBA REAFFIRMS FRIENDSHIP TOWARD NEW AFGAN GOVERNMENT

FL011957Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1943 GMT 1 May 78 FL

[Text] The Government of Cuba has conveyed greetings to the revolutionary council government of the Democratic Republic of Afganistan led by chief of state and government Nur Mohammad Taraki. The greetings were issued because of the statement in which the Afgan Government reaffirms its status as a member of the nonalined movement and its intention to welcome the next coordinating bureau meeting scheduled to begin in Kabul, the capital, on 6 May. In doing so, the Cuban Government reaffirms its friendship toward the Afgan people and their revolutionary government. At the same time, Cuba expresses its desire to maintain ties of cooperation with the Democratic Republic of Afganistan, both bilaterally as well as in the nonalined movement.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Discusses Cuban-Iraqi Relations

FL011406Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Apr 78 FL

[Statement by Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf for Havana television news, in Arabic with sentence-by-sentence Spanish translation, made in Baghdad, no date given--recorded]

[Text] Relations between the Republic of Iraq and Cuba are friendly and are being developed on solid bases. The objectives of the Iraqi and Cuban peoples are similar since they are struggling to attain liberty and to liberate themselves from foreign domination and the plundering of our countries' national resources.

Cuba undertook a revolutionary process which has defeated the enemies and, thanks to its revolutionary leadership, Cuba has become a formidable fortress of liberty not only on the American continent but also in the rest of the world. During this period it also advanced the process of socialist transformations and attained achievements which are a source of pride for militant peoples. Therefore, it is natural for Iraq's progressive 17 July Revolution to turn toward its sister, the Cuban revolution, to gain experiences and work toward a consolidation and coordination of Cuban-Iraqi relations.

Our visit to Cuba is a link in the chain of contacts between the two top leadership organizations of the two countries to find the most appropriate means to strengthen relations in the political, ideological, economic, party and cultural fields and to confirm what Cuba has been able to achieve in the economic field and with mass organizations. International issues of common interest, particularly the nonalined movement and the next summit to be held in Havana in 1979, also will be discussed.

Reception in His Honor

FL011431Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1236 GMT 1 May 78 FL

[Excerpts] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, last night attended a reception in honor or Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf. Politburo member Pedro Miret, members of the PCC Secretariat and Central Committee, and Cuban Government ministers also attended the reception.

During the reception Carlos Rafael Rodriguez talked with the Iraqi vice president and senior officials of the delegation accompanying him.

Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf arrived in our country yesterday in response to an official invitation from the Cuban Government. He heads a high-level delegation that includes the foreign minister and other senior Iraqi officials. Upon his arrival in Havana, Vice President Ma'ruf, in a message to the Cuban people, said that he is very pleased with this visit. He then conveyed greetings from the Iraqi people to the Cuban people, from Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, and from the Ba'th Party to our party.

He said: The talks we are going to hold here undoubtedly will strengthen the revolutionary movement leadership role in its resistance against imperialism and reactionaries. They also will strengthen our common positions.

FREDDY LETTER DISCUSSES TRIP TO HAVANA, CUBAN REFUGEES

FL282120Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Apr 78 FL

[Guido Garcia Inclan commentary: "Letter From Freddy"]

[Text] Just days away from the [11th World Youth and Student] Festival, we were impatiently waiting for a letter from our dear friend and correspondent to learn the conditions that exist over there, in the United States, and to learn if he would be able to visit us. Many of our friends--our listeners--have told us that they want to meet Freddy when he visits us in the next few months as part of the delegation from the north. Since we are making this commentary, it is best that we go on to his letter which, although brief like all his letters, has its message:

Dear Guido, we are taking all the steps so as not to fail in making our trip this time and to be officially named part of the delegation of youths from here who will be visiting Havana. At the last minute the HERALD wanted to send me to Santiago de Cuba for the 26 July festivities, which was what I wanted last year. However, I think I have succeeded in getting my trip to Havana.

Over here, despite the community purges, everything is the same. The refugees cannot remain still. They amuse themselves with individual insults which always result in groups fighting each other. The new FBI and CIA leaders already have warned them that whoever wants to fight will have to do it under their [word indistinct] directed by them and paid by them. The radio stations wholly or partly owned by Cubans are being increasingly watched because the old thing of saying whatever they wanted to say can no longer be done.

I am sending you printed material separately which should be to your liking. Wait for my trip. I will let you know ahead of time. Thanks for everything. A warm embrace to you, [signed] Freddy

HAVANA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HOLDS REVIEW MEETING

FL291931Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The Havana City Provincial People's Government Assembly opened a meeting this morning with the attendance of 169 delegates--or 79 percent attendance--and chaired by Oscar Fernandez Mell. The meeting, held at the Garcia Lorca Theater, is being attended by Blas Roca Calderio, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the National Assembly; Jaime Crombet, party first secretary in Havana City Province; Education Minister Jose Ramon Fernandez, Faustino Perez, Zoilo Marinello, and Dr Jose Gutierrez Muniz, all PCC Central Committee members. Assembly President Oscar Fernandez Mell read the accounts report during the morning session and it was unanimously approved. A report from the temporary committee on rendering of accounts of municipal assemblies was read by committee chairman Aurora Rodriguez and it was unanimously approved. This was followed by an analysis and discussion of reports from administrative departments and permanent work committees.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

POLICE BREAK UP LEFTIST DEMONSTRATION

PA2819355Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1646 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 28 Apr (AFP)--Police today broke up a demonstration organized by the leftist Patriotic Union in front of the U.S. Embassy and OAS building. Several leaders were arrested as they marched in the demonstration which was scheduled to stop first in front of the U.S. Embassy and then in front of the OAS building, located in different parts of the city.

The persons arrested included Franklyn Franco and Esteban Diaz Jaquez, presidential and vice presidential candidates, respectively, in the 16 May elections.

According to reports, the demonstration was to protest the landing of U.S. troops at the outset of the revolution in April 1965.

SOLDIER WOUNDS PRD LEADER DURING RALLY

PA3019145Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0156 GMT 30 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 30 Apr (EFE)--A leader of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) was wounded on Saturday when a soldier fired into a PRD rally in the city of Sanchez.

The shot, which was presumably aimed at a candidate for deputy, wounded Adriano Torres, PRD press and propaganda secretary of that city.

JAMAICA

JTA CALLS END TO TEACHERS STRIKE

FL0119405Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER IN English 27 Apr 78 p 1 FL

[Excerpt] School children go back to classes this morning following the JTA's [Jamaica Teachers' Association] agreement yesterday to call off its strike for increased salaries.

Agreement on the resumption was reached at the Ministry of Labour, North Street, Kingston, yesterday. The minister, the Hon. William Isaacs, acceded to the request made by the Jamaica Teachers' Association that he set up a board of inquiry under Section 14 of the labour relations and industrial disputes act to investigate the matter.

The terms of reference and composition of the board are to be announced by Mr. Isaacs, shortly. Following the agreement on the setting up of the board, the JTA agreed to instruct the teachers to resume this morning.

The minister also had a meeting with the representatives of the National Union of Democratic Teachers [NUDT] later yesterday afternoon, during which the decision reached with the JTA was discussed. The NUDT represents approximately 400 of the island's 18,551 public school teachers.

The teachers went on strike last Thursday after the minister of finance, Mr. Eric Bell, informed them that they would be granted no salary increases by the government during the current financial year. They are seeking an increase of $1,040 per annum on salaries.

The teachers were first told of the government's decision by the minister of the public service, Mr. Howard Cooke, on March 22. They sought a resumption of the negotiations, but failed.

Mr. Bell, in a nationwide television and radio broadcast last week Wednesday, said that not only was the government unable to pay the increases, but the teachers were not eligible for any increases until next year, under the three-year contract.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

DELEGATION WILL NOT BE SENT TO HAVANA YOUTH FESTIVAL

FL2322000Y Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Apr 78 p 1 FL

[Excerpt] Trinidad and Tobago will not be represented officially at the Eleventh World Festival of Youth and Students in Havana, Cuba, from July 28 to August 5.

This was stated by a government official yesterday. The official added that government had turned down a request for financial assistance from the national preparatory committee to send a contingent from this country.

The official stressed that the festival was geared for "socialist and communist countries" and youths in other countries who felt they were socialists or communists.

He said: "Every year the communist bloc hosts this affair but this is the first time it is being held in the Caribbean.

"This local planning committee tried to involve prominent persons in its activities and also sought assistance from government.

Best To Keep Out

"In the international arena Trinidad and Tobago is not recognised as a socialist or communist country, so we thought it best to keep out. If anybody from this country wants to go, that is his business, but there will be no official representation from this country.

"Government turned down a request for a large sum of money to send delegates on the trip, but we did not want a big fuss about it..."

He added that Trinidad and Tobago was never represented officially at the festival.

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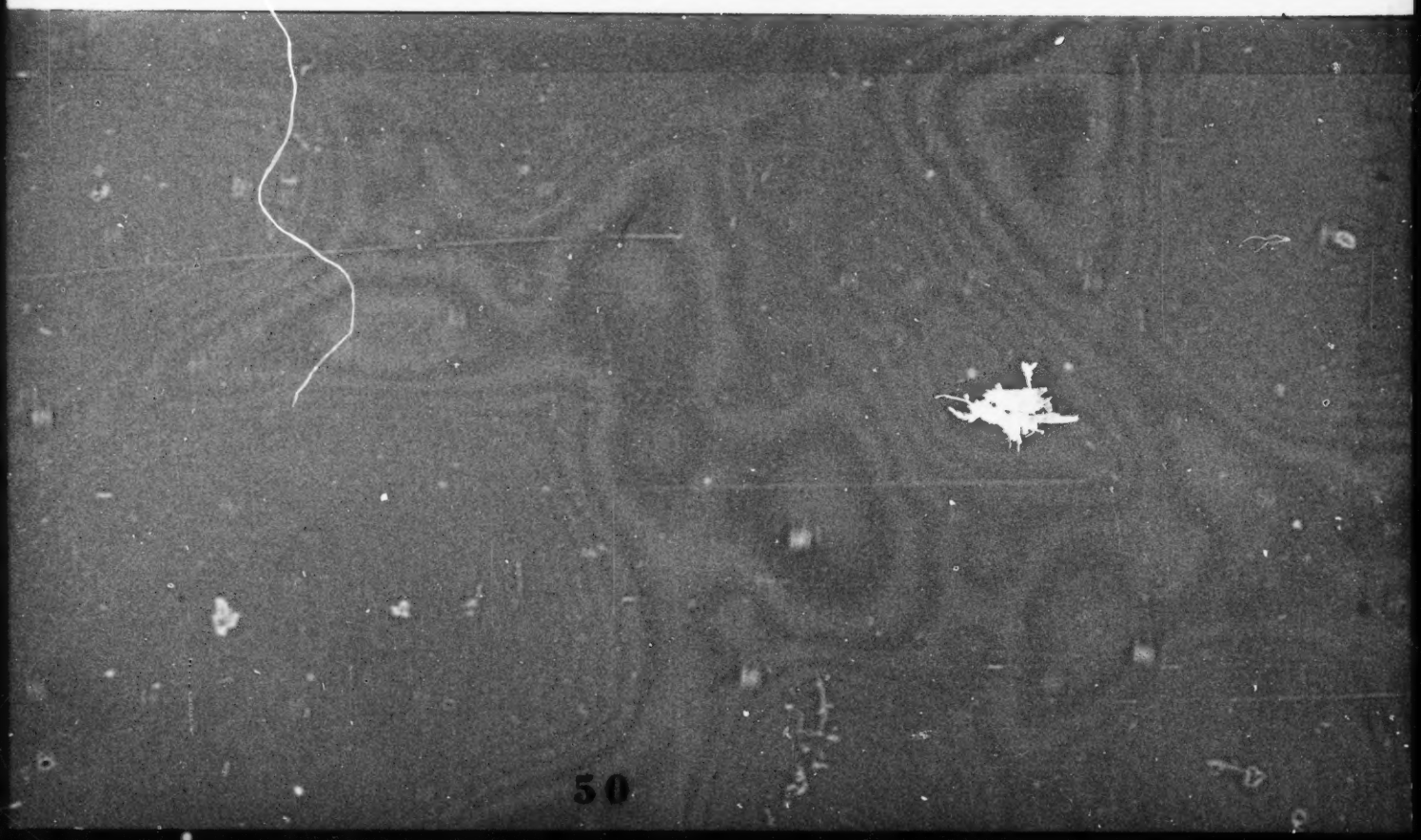
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